United Nations S/PV.5707

Security Council

Distr.: General
28 June 2007

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 5707th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 28 June 2007, at 10 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"At its 5707th meeting, held in private on 28 June 2007, the Security Council considered the item entitled "The situation in Somalia".

"The President, with the consent of the Council, invited the representative of Somalia to participate in the consideration of the item without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

"Members of the Council and His Excellency Mr. Ali Mohamed Gedi, Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, had an exchange of views."

07-40225 (E) 280607

United Nations S/PV.5708

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5708th meeting

Thursday, 28 June 2007, 1.05 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Verbeke	(Belgium)
Members:	China	Mr. Li Junhua
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Ghana	Mr. Tachie-Menson
	Indonesia	Mr. Budiman
	Italy	Mr. Azzarello
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Peru	Mr. Pérez
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Sulaiti
	Russian Federation	Mr. Shcherbak
	Slovakia	Mr. Mlynár
	South Africa	Ms. Qwabe
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott Sanders

Agenda

The situation in Sierra Leone

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-40295 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 1.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Sierra Leone

The President (*spoke in French*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Sierra Leone, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Rowe (Sierra Leone) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in French*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council.

(*spoke in English*)

"The Security Council expresses its warm appreciation to the President and Chief Prosecutor of the Special Court for Sierra Leone for their briefing during the debate of the Security Council on 8 June 2007.

"The Security Council reiterates its strong support for the Special Court and commends the progress the Special Court has achieved. The Security Council particularly notes the contribution of the Special Court to strengthening stability in Sierra Leone and the subregion and bringing an end to impunity.

"The Security Council welcomes the commencement of the trial of Charles Taylor on 4 June 2007 in The Hague following the adoption of resolution 1688 (2006). The Security Council also congratulates the Special Court on handing down its first trial judgement on 21 June 2007 in the *AFRC* case.

"The Security Council also acknowledges the Special Court's progress towards achieving its completion strategy. The Security Council underlines its expectation that all organs of the Special Court will do their utmost to finish the work of the Court in accordance with the completion strategy.

"The Security Council urges the international community to continue to support the Special Court as it moves into its final stage of work, including by ensuring that the remaining fugitive indictee appears before the Court.

"The Security Council in particular takes note of the Special Court's ongoing needs for financial support. The Security Council emphasizes the vital need for further pledges of voluntary contributions in order to allow the Special Court to complete its mandate in a timely manner, and asks all United Nations Members State to consider making such pledges.

"The Security Council also notes the other varied challenges facing the Special Court as it works to fulfil its mandate, and urges States to consider supporting the Special Court by entering into appropriate arrangements with the Special Court for witness relocation and enforcement of sentences.

"The Security Council recognizes that further arrangements will be needed to address residual matters after trials and appeals are completed, including issues arising from long-term enforcement of sentences for convicted persons, the future trial of any indictees remaining at large, witness protection and the preservation of the archives of the Special Court.

"Finally, the Security Council commends the important outreach activities of the Special Court in bringing its judicial work to the attention of the people of Sierra Leone, and thereby contributing to the restoration of the rule of law throughout the country and region."

(*spoke in French*)

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2007/23.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5709

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5709th meeting

Friday, 29 June 2007, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Verbeke	(Belgium)
Members:	China	Mr. Li Junhua
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Ghana	Mr. Tachie-Menson
	Indonesia	Mr. Kleib
	Italy	Mr. Azzarello
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Peru	Mr. Chávez
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Bader
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Slovakia	Mr. Mlynár
	South Africa	Mr. Kumalo
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United States of America	Mr. Brencick

Agenda

Small arms

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-40461 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Small arms

The President (*spoke in French*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council.

"The Security Council recalls its primary responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security. In this regard the Security Council recognizes that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects has hampered the peaceful settlement of disputes, fuelled such disputes into armed conflict and contributed to the prolongation of such armed conflicts.

"The Security Council notes with grave concern that the destabilizing accumulation and illicit manufacture, trade and circulation of small arms and light weapons in many regions of the world increase the intensity and duration of armed conflicts, undermine the sustainability of peace agreements, impede the success of peacebuilding, frustrate efforts aimed at the prevention of armed conflict, hinder considerably the provision of humanitarian assistance and compromise the effectiveness of the Security Council in discharging its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

"The Council reaffirms the inherent right to individual or collective self-defence consistent with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

"The Security Council notes the report of the Secretary-General to the Council entitled 'Small Arms' (S/2006/109) of 17 February 2006, and recalls the statements of its President of 17 February 2005 (S/PRST/2005/7), of 19 January 2004 (S/PRTS/2004/1), of 31 October 2002 (S/PRST/2002/30), of 31 August 2001 (S/PRST/2001/21) and of 24 September 1999 (S/PRST/1999/28).

"The Security Council underlines the need to address this issue regularly and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Council on a biennial basis beginning in 2008 a report on small arms containing his analysis, observations and recommendations as well as his observations on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects, to facilitate its further consideration of the matter.

"The Security Council stresses the need to implement the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, in order to make real progress in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. In particular, States are encouraged to strengthen physical security and stockpile management, destroy surplus and obsolete small arms and light weapons, ensure that all small arms and light weapons are marked at the time of manufacture and import, and strengthen export and border controls and control brokering activities.

"The Security Council encourages increased efforts to end the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons at the national, regional and international level.

"The Security Council calls on all Member States to abide by their obligations to observe the arms embargoes established under relevant Security Council resolutions."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2007/24.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5710

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5710th meeting

Friday, 29 June 2007, 10.25 a.m.

New York

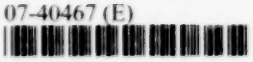
President:	Mr. Verbeke	(Belgium)
Members:	China	Mr. Li Kexin
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Mr. Tachie-Menson
	Indonesia	Mr. Kleib
	Italy	Mr. Spatafora
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Peru	Mr. Chávez
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Bader
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Slovakia	Mr. Mlynár
	South Africa	Mr. Kumalo
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United States of America	Mr. Khalilzad

Agenda

The situation concerning Iraq

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-40467 (E)



The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning Iraq

The President (*spoke in French*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Iraq, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Al Bayati (Iraq) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend invitations under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Demetrius Perricos, Acting Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, and to Mr. Gustavo Zlauvinen, Representative of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Director of the IAEA Office at United Nations Headquarters, New York.

It is so decided.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2007/390, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear briefings by Mr. Demetrius Perricos, Acting Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, and by Mr. Gustavo Zlauvinen, Representative of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to the United Nations and Director of the IAEA Office at United Nations Headquarters, New York.

I now give the floor to Mr. Demetrius Perricos, Acting Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission.

Mr. Perricos: I welcome this opportunity to brief the Council on our activities. The twenty-ninth quarterly report to the Council, covering the period 1 March to 31 May, is in document S/2007/314. This is the last quarterly report of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), in view of the imminent decision by the Council to terminate the mandate of UNMOVIC and that of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) under the relevant Security Council resolutions relating to Iraq.

In the present security environment of Iraq, the possibility should not be discounted that non-State actors may seek to acquire toxic agents or chemical precursors in small quantities. One recent example is the reported use by insurgents in Iraq of toxic industrial chemicals previously under United Nations monitoring, such as chlorine, combined with explosives for dispersal. The possibility of non-State actors getting their hands on other, more toxic, agents is real. In view of those events in Iraq and the interest generated by them, we have, in the annex to our twenty-ninth quarterly report, further elaborated our study on the issue of small quantities in both the chemical and biological areas.

UNMOVIC's activities over the past several years have been detailed in its quarterly reports to the Council and the various technical annexes thereto. We have already provided the Council with a summary of our compendium of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programmes, which was issued as document S/2006/420 in June 2006. The Council had been informed in the past of our intention to place the full compendium document on the UNMOVIC website, www.unmovic.org, after sensitive information had been eliminated. That, I am pleased to say, took place on 27 June.

The material has been redacted on the basis of two principles known to the Council. The first is information related to technology, research and production that may assist in the development of

weapons of mass destruction and means of delivery. The second principle concerns the confidentiality of certain information, which includes names of foreign companies, institutions and banks, names of countries and names of individuals. The same principles will apply in the classification of UNMOVIC's archives. The publication of the compendium provides a detailed and comprehensive United Nations account of the former Iraqi regime's extensive WMD programmes. For the first time it provides lessons learnt over many years of United Nations inspections and monitoring, which could be useful in any future multilateral verification undertaking.

With your encouragement, Mr. President, we have actively pursued our training programme for inspectors on our roster. A multidisciplinary training course related to petrochemical technologies took place from 9 to 22 June in Doha, Qatar. It is noteworthy that this is the first training course to be conducted by UNMOVIC in the Middle East region. The course had long been planned and I am grateful to the Government of Qatar for the support it provided.

The training course in Qatar was the last training course provided by UNMOVIC for its roster of 380 experts. The other 38 courses, from UNMOVIC's inception, were possible due to the generosity and support of the Governments of Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Romania, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States. I take this opportunity to again thank those Governments which have been consistently supporting our training activities.

Members will recall that on many occasions over the past years I have been asking that the Council find the opportunity to revisit UNMOVIC's mandate, including the activities and the process that could eventually lead to the closing of the disarmament file for Iraq and any other follow-up actions required. I have also drawn the attention of the Council in the past to the fact that, unless the Council decides otherwise, it would be assumed by UNMOVIC that the relevant disarmament obligations on Iraq in section C of resolution 687 (1991) and the disarmament undertakings in the letter of 8 May 2003 from the Permanent Representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States to the President of the Council, and noted by the Council in its resolution 1483 (2003), constitute the standards for determining the disarmament of Iraq.

During the period from 27 November 2002 to 17 March 2003 — when United Nations inspectors were withdrawn — UNMOVIC conducted 731 inspections covering 411 sites, 88 of which had not been inspected before. The inspection findings were summarized in paragraphs 8, 9 and 19 of the thirteenth quarterly report to the Council of 30 May 2003. In paragraph 8, it was noted that

> "In the period during which it performed inspection and monitoring in Iraq, UNMOVIC did not find evidence of the continuation or resumption of programmes of weapons of mass destruction or significant quantities of proscribed items from before the adoption of resolution 687 (1991)";

and in paragraph 9 it was reported that

> "Inspections uncovered a small number of undeclared empty chemical warheads which appear to have been produced prior to 1990. Those and a few other proscribed items were destroyed" (*ibid.*).

Such destruction activities also included two thirds of the Al Samoud 2 missiles, which exceeded the 150-kilometre range limit set by the Council. Paragraph 19 of the same quarterly report clarifies that, during the inspections,

> "a thorough assessment was made of both dual-use capabilities and the amount of time that would be needed to reconfigure specific installations to perform proscribed activities" (*ibid.*).

But neither the inspections nor the declarations and documents submitted by Iraq to UNMOVIC have resulted in eliminating the existing unresolved disarmament issues. A list of key remaining disarmament tasks selected from unresolved disarmament issues was presented to the Council on 19 March 2003.

In the light of changes in Iraq in the aftermath of the war in 2003, we have revisited the unresolved disarmament issues. We understood that resolution 1284 (1999), under which UNMOVIC was created, required us to update our assessment of what are the remaining disarmament issues regarding items, materials and capabilities with respect to Iraq. I outlined to the College of Commissioners at its last

meeting in May our present assessment of these outstanding issues.

The list of unresolved disarmament issues had been established on the basis of various sources, such as the report of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) (S/1999/94) and the Amorim report (S/1999/356) on the matter, as well as UNSCOM inspection reports and findings since 1991. During that early period of inspections, the United Nations inspectors uncovered key elements of the proscribed programmes, including that of undeclared biological warfare agents production and weaponization that had been concealed by Iraq until 1995. The inspectors also uncovered advanced capabilities in chemical weapons development, including the nerve agent VX, as well as indigenous developments on long-range missiles. Furthermore, the inspectors supervised the destruction of large quantities of proscribed items, material, munitions, missiles and equipment.

In addition to those findings, various declarations and documents of Iraq — including those from the Haidar or so-called Chicken Farm — were consulted. The latter revealed that Iraq had deliberately concealed at that time significant parts of its proscribed programmes, in particular in the chemical area, thus triggering considerable doubt about the sincerity of its intention to disarm. That led to UNSCOM's and then UNMOVIC's increased and sustained attention to any disarmament issue that remained unresolved.

When assessing if a disarmament issue is still relevant, it has been necessary to consider whether any information made available since the draft UNMOVIC work plan was submitted to the Security Council in March 2003 could contribute to its solution. Such information includes any finding of an unaccounted-for item or evidence of its destruction, such as in testimony or documents, as well as assessments from the analysis of the latest pre-war Iraqi declarations and explanations, results of satellite imagery analysis and open-source information, such as the 2004 comprehensive report of the United States-led Iraq Survey Group (ISG) and its 2005 addendum.

It should be noted that UNMOVIC did not have access to any of the supporting documentation, interview testimony or details of site inspections carried out by the ISG. The main finding in the ISG's comprehensive report — the absence of any stockpiles of WMD or evidence of a revival of WMD-related programmes proscribed under the Security Council's resolutions — corresponds to UNMOVIC's conclusions reported to the Council in June 2003 with our thirteenth quarterly report, in light of our own verification experience in Iraq.

The outstanding disarmament issues that we believe are of certain concern are of a technical nature and I shall therefore not detail them here. They cover all the weapons disciplines — chemical, biological, missiles and other means of delivery. While assessing the current relevance of a disarmament issue, UNMOVIC also considered whether it still represents a threat. For example, what would be the current potential viability of a chemical or biological agent or the usability of a missile? A number of those issues — for instance, the 25 known Al Samoud 2 missiles that had not been destroyed by the middle of March 2003 and the 326 SA2 missile engines that are unaccounted for — have been reported by me to the Council during my presentation of various UNMOVIC quarterly reports.

When reviewing the unresolved issues to determine whether they were still relevant, UNMOVIC has also identified capabilities that may still remain in Iraq. Capabilities include scientists and technicians involved in proscribed programmes, where they gained experience and know-how. They also include a large number of dual-use equipment — more than 7,900 items that we knew were in certain sites in Iraq as of March 2003, but of whose present whereabouts we have no knowledge, except for the few found outside Iraq.

The ISG report states that Iraq's chemical industry had the capability to restore chemical weapons production as a result of improvements in the chemical infrastructure achieved during the latter half of the 1990s. It further states that large and important projects for the indigenous production of chemicals were initiated to improve Iraq's self-sufficiency in their availability. At the same time, it recognizes that Iraq's industry was still struggling with serious shortages in many areas. UNMOVIC had arrived at similar conclusions regarding the production capability of Iraq's chemical industry after it had inspected all key facilities potentially capable of involvement in a chemical weapons programme, and determined that a number of them could be adapted for such a purpose after reconfiguration of the equipment.

Know-how, at least the part of it necessary to develop proscribed activities, lies in the memory of each of those who already participated in those activities. But it may also be available in documents or records describing fabrication processes, sometimes referred to as "cookbooks", including blueprints and test results. UNMOVIC cannot provide assurances that all such documents and blueprints are in its possession or have been destroyed and that none remain in the hands of Iraqi individuals. The use of this know-how and of relevant capabilities was expected to be monitored by the United Nations under the monitoring mechanism created by the Council as long as the Council reaffirmed Iraq's disarmament obligations under its relevant resolutions, not through self-monitoring by Iraq's national institutions.

It should also be noted that a number of UNMOVIC's present concerns about unresolved issues actually follow from the ISG's findings. For example, the report of the Iraq Survey Group provided information related to the disposal by Iraqi personnel of bulk quantities of liquid anthrax in an area in Baghdad in 1991, but it was not clarified whether those quantities of agent were deactivated before being dumped into the ground. That could represent a reservoir from which this strain of anthrax could be isolated and cultured in the future. Another example relates to the status, as of 2004, of the Muthanna facility, which was the main chemical-weapons production site in Iraq. It was stated that all structures and bunkers at the site that had been sealed under the observation of the United Nations inspectors in 1994 had been breached and some equipment and materials removed. The ISG reported that chemical munitions were still being stored in the bunkers and that the bunkers tested positive for the presence of chemical-weapon agents. UNMOVIC therefore no longer knows the current status of the items and materials that were contained in the bunkers when a handover protocol was signed in 1994 between UNSCOM and Iraq, which required steps by the Government of Iraq to ensure the integrity of the buildings containing potentially lethal toxic agents.

It is widely accepted that there can be no complete certainty that disarmament has been fully achieved in a country. On a number of occasions, I personally and Mr. Blix before me referred to the unavoidable residue of uncertainty that will remain in that regard. A number of the still-open issues in the chemical, biological and missile areas could have been clarified with some additional activities such as sampling, interviews, the checking of documents in the possession of the ISG or even information from the coalition authorities. Some issues would not have been resolved even with such measures. However, the Council foresaw in 1991 that disarmament would need to be followed by an undetermined period of ongoing United Nations monitoring, which would minimize any continuing uncertainty regarding the closing of the disarmament file.

Under the present circumstances, the remaining outstanding issues cannot be resolved and therefore contribute to the residue of uncertainty. If Iraq had already acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and were under the inspection regime of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the uncertainty with regard to its chemical weapons programme would be reduced. That is important, given that any industrial developments in Iraq would result in substantial increases in the size and extent of the chemical industry in the future. As I reported to the Council, it is nearly a year since we provided extensive information intended to assist Iraq in submitting to the OPCW an initial inventory of its chemical-warfare programmes, as required by the CWC. It is, of course, up to the Council, exercising its judgement, to determine whether it will accept the residue of uncertainty when taking a decision to close the Iraq WMD disarmament file.

This is my last briefing to the Security Council as Acting Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC. It coincides with my last working day in the Organization. Sixteen years ago, in April 1991, I had the opportunity as an IAEA official to be present in the Council Chamber when the Council adopted resolution 687 (1991), which is considered the mother of all resolutions related to weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. It created the mandate for the United Nations Special Commission established pursuant to Security Council resolution 687 (1991) (UNSCOM), the predecessor of UNMOVIC, and for the IAEA relating to Iraq. The draft resolution on which the Council will take action today, terminating that mandate, closes a cycle of many years of verification, during which the United Nations showed that it can successfully carry out the activities demanded by the international community despite difficulties and, frequently, a lack of cooperation from the inspected party. That draft

resolution also brings to mind paragraph 14 of resolution 687 (1991), in that fulfilment of the Iraqi obligations under the resolutions represents steps towards the goal of establishing in the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction and all missiles for their delivery and the objective of a global ban on chemical weapons. I sincerely hope that that goal will not be overlooked, but that it will be realized in the not-too-distant future. It also raises another question, regarding, the future of the obligations that were imposed on Iraq by various Council resolutions and that are still valid. Of particular interest for the future — not only for Iraq, but also for exporting States — is resolution 1051 (1996) and the export/import mechanism that it established to monitor the trade in dual-use items, equipment and material.

I have had the opportunity to thank UNMOVIC's College of Commissioners for the support and advice that they provided to me. I would also like to thank the members of the Council secretariat for their full cooperation since the creation of UNMOVIC. My thanks go also to the Chairmen of UNSCOM, Ambassadors Ekeus and Butler. In particular, I wish to thank Mr. Hans Blix for the professional and independent manner in which he guided UNMOVIC during a very critical operational period. I also take this opportunity to thank successive members of the Council for the guidance and support that they offered me and UNMOVIC, and especially for the patience that they have shown in listening to my statements every three months since September 2003.

I wish to conclude by expressing my thanks and gratitude to the inspectors and the support staff of UNMOVIC and its predecessor, UNSCOM, and the staff of the IAEA involved in Iraq, for their dedicated work, diligence, courage and devotion to their mission of serving the United Nations and the Security Council and for using their knowledge, experience and expertise in unravelling a very complicated picture related to Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programmes. Through their professionalism, they made Iraq a success story in international verification, and I hope that that expertise will not be dispersed and lost to the United Nations in the future.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Perricos for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Gustavo Zlauvinen, Representative of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to the United Nations and Director of the IAEA Office at United Nations Headquarters, New York.

Mr. Zlauvinen: The Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mr. ElBaradei, has asked me to read out the following statement in connection with the draft resolution contained in document S/2007/390, dated 28 June 2007:

> "I recall my report to the Security Council of 7 March 2003, in which I informed the Council that the IAEA had found no evidence or plausible indication of the revival of a nuclear weapons programme in Iraq.

The detailed knowledge of Iraq's capabilities that IAEA experts had accumulated since 1991, combined with the rights provided under the relevant Security Council resolutions, the active commitment by all States to help us fulfil our mandate and an increased level of Iraqi cooperation would have enabled the Agency to provide the Security Council with an objective and thorough assessment of Iraq's nuclear-related capabilities within a few months.

> "I also informed the Council at that time that the IAEA would endeavour to evaluate Iraq's capabilities on a continuous basis as part of our long-term monitoring and verification programme, in order to provide the international community with ongoing and real-time assurances.
>
> "As I have reported in my consolidated progress reports on the IAEA's verification activities pursuant to the relevant Security Council resolutions, the IAEA has not been able, since 17 March 2003, to implement its Security Council mandate in Iraq and has only been able to verify, in accordance with Iraq's safeguards agreement under the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the remaining nuclear material in Tuwaitha in each of the years from 2003 to 2006.
>
> "Once the security situation permits, with the cooperation of the Government of Iraq and through the full implementation of its safeguards agreement, as well as an additional protocol thereto that the IAEA hopes Iraq will conclude in the near future, the Agency will be able to

provide assurances of the non-diversion of declared nuclear material and the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iraq.

"Finally, let me express my appreciation for the support provided by the Council to the Agency throughout the difficult 12 years of its work in dismantling Iraq's clandestine nuclear programme and in providing assurance that it was not revived.

"I would also like to put on the record, on behalf of all Agency staff, our gratitude for the recognition given to the Agency and its dedicated staff."

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Zlauvinen for his briefing. I shall now give the floor to those Council members who wish to make statements.

Mr. Khalilzad (United States of America): As the Council prepares to vote to terminate the mandates of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Iraq Nuclear Verification Office upon completion of their missions, I appreciate this opportunity to brief the Security Council on the subject of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) in Iraq from 2003 to the present.

First, I would like to commend the work of the dedicated professionals in UNMOVIC, IAEA and the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) since 1991. The United States and the United Kingdom, along with the other United Nations Members who constitute the Multinational Force in Iraq, have taken all appropriate steps to investigate each credible report of the presence of weapons of mass destruction or their delivery systems in Iraq.

The Iraq Survey Group, comprised of 1,400 experts from several countries, worked diligently from the spring of 2003 through early 2005 to investigate Iraq's WMD stockpiles, such as chemical and biological agents, and any research programmes and infrastructure that could be used to develop WMDs. While security conditions in Iraq have at times made this work difficult and dangerous, the Iraq Survey Group and the Multinational Force have been well equipped and trained to conduct such investigations.

These efforts have demonstrated that the current Government of Iraq does not possess any weapons of mass destruction or delivery systems. The Multinational Force, however, continues from time to time to discover residual abandoned stocks of munitions, which are handled appropriately in coordination with the Government of Iraq.

In looking to the future, the Iraqi Government has a solid commitment to non-proliferation embodied in its Constitution, approved by the citizens of Iraq in October 2005. Article 9 states,

> "The Iraqi government shall respect and implement Iraq's international commitments regarding the non-proliferation, non-development, non-production, and non-use of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and shall prohibit associated equipment, material, technologies, and delivery systems for use in the development, manufacture, production, and use of such weapons."

This fact and this commitment stand in contrast to the circumstances under Saddam Hussein's regime. The Iraq Survey Group report made clear Saddam Hussein's intent to develop weapons of mass destruction as soon as United Nations sanctions were lifted, the fact that he maintained a breakout capacity that would have enabled rapid production of chemical and biological weapons and the fact that he repeatedly made false reports to United Nations inspectors of WMD programmes.

With regard to chemical weapons, it is evident that Iraq had constructed facilities prior to March 2003 that could produce chemical weapons. Iraq had the capacity to produce large quantities of sulphur mustards within three to six months, as well as the capacity to produce nerve agents within two years. The Iraq Survey Group determined that, following the 1991 Gulf War, Iraq abandoned efforts to preserve its pre-1991 chemical weapon capability and destroyed most of its undeclared chemical weapon stockpiles in 1991. A significant number of old, pre-1991 abandoned chemical munitions have since been discovered and secured by Coalition forces.

Since 2003, multinational experts have implemented a series of measures to seal and secure remaining chemical weapon sites. Coalition forces have worked hard to investigate reports of abandoned chemical munitions to ensure that they are accounted for, analyzed and destroyed to prevent any hazard to Iraqi civilians. Coalition forces continue to work with

the Government of Iraq to ensure the safety and structural integrity of these sites.

With regard to nuclear weapons, the Iraq Survey Group uncovered evidence of the maturity and intent of the pre-1991 Iraqi nuclear programme. The Government determined, however, that the Iraqi ability to reconstitute a nuclear weapons programme had progressively deteriorated after 1991, despite Saddam Hussein's interest in nuclear weapons and in retaining nuclear weapons scientists. There was no evidence that his Government made a serious effort to acquire the fissile materials needed to develop a nuclear-weapon programme.

The Iraq National Monitoring Directorate has been transformed by the Government of Iraq into an organization that fully supports international non-proliferation goals. The Government of Iraq has requested and is receiving IAEA and other international assistance to help Iraqi authorities establish full compliance with all IAEA requirements concerning remaining material connected to nuclear-weapon programmes.

Furthermore, the Iraqi Government has established the Iraqi Radioactive Source Regulatory Authority (IRSRA), in cooperation with the IAEA, along with the United States Departments of State and of Energy and the Nuclear Research Council. Iraq has committed itself to operating this new, independent agency in accordance with the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. IRSRA currently has a staff of 54 people. With Iraqi survey teams checking locations known to have had radioactive sources in the past, the organization has nearly completed an inventory of Iraq's radioactive sources and has confirmed and inventoried all those currently in use.

Unwanted radioactive sources have been collected and placed in secure storage. Last year alone 260 missions were conducted covering all Iraqi governorates. Field survey missions are ongoing, concentrating now on lost or orphan radioactive sources. As a result, 1,130 radiation sources have been recovered, while 1,680 radiation sources have been accounted for and updated in the inventory.

To help secure Iraq's borders, a radioactive border control training programme has been established for customs officers and others. The Government of Iraq has also distributed hand-held monitoring equipment to 17 border points thus far. That project represents Iraq's first move to implement radiological border monitoring.

Since 2003, coalition forces have also worked closely with the Government of Iraq to ensure that radiological sources are properly secured and closely monitored. Proper and secure arrangements for their appropriate disposition are made at the discretion of the Iraqi authorities. This close cooperation with coalition forces and careful accountability of radiological sources have prevented the compromise of this sensitive material.

The Iraqi Survey Group uncovered no evidence that Iraq has retained SCUD-variant missiles. Debriefing of Iraqi officials from the former regime, in addition to some documentation that has been reviewed, suggests that Iraq did not retain such missiles after 1991. However, the Group did find Iraqi plans or designs for three long-range ballistic missiles with ranges from 400 to 1,000 kilometres, and for a 1,000-kilometre-range cruise missile, although none of those systems progressed to production and only one reportedly passed the design phase. The Iraq Survey Group assessed that those plans demonstrated Saddam's continuing desire, up to the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, to acquire a long-range delivery capability.

Given Iraq's investment in technology and infrastructure improvements in an effective procurement network, skilled scientists and designs already on the books for longer-range missiles, the Iraqi Survey Group assessed that Saddam Hussein clearly intended to reconstitute long-range delivery systems that could potentially be used as a delivery platform for weapons of mass destruction.

The Iraq Survey Group also determined that Iraq could have established an elementary biological weapons programme within one month or less if desired. The Group judged that in 1991 and 1992 Iraq destroyed most of its undeclared stocks of biological weapons and agents. Some remaining biological-weapons-related seed stocks were destroyed following their discovery by coalition forces following Operation Iraqi Freedom. Nonetheless, in spite of exhaustive investigations, the Iraqi Survey Group uncovered no evidence suggesting that Iraq possessed or was developing biological weapons, agents or production facilities.

In summation, with the findings of the Iraqi Survey Group, the extensive and careful efforts of the Multinational Force and experts, and the aggressive corrective actions taken by the Iraqi Government, at present there is no longer any reason to believe that significant quantities of Saddam-era weapons of mass destruction remain undiscovered in Iraq.

Furthermore, the United States and others have also been working with the Iraqi Government to ensure that the Iraqi scientists previously engaged in Iraqi WMD programmes, many of whom are accomplished scientists and experts in their respective fields, are gainfully employed and contributing their substantial expertise to the reconstruction of Iraq. Perhaps most importantly, Iraq is no longer a country that has any political intent or military plan to utilize such terrible weapons.

Sir Emyr Jones Parry (United Kingdom): I should like to thank Mr. Perricos and Mr. Zlauvinen for their reports.

The United Kingdom is grateful to the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM), the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Iraq Nuclear Verification Office for the roles they played in monitoring Saddam's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programmes and determining whether his regime was complying with the disarmament obligations placed on it by the Security Council from 1991 onwards.

The United Kingdom would like to draw the attention of the Security Council to the report of the Special Adviser to the Director of the CIA, which catalogues the state of Iraq's disarmament and the residual stocks of WMD material. UNMOVIC has previously reported to the Council on chemical weapons finds made by the coalition forces.

The United Kingdom welcomes the commitment made by the Government of Iraq to respect and apply existing international commitments and obligations to the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. In particular, we welcome the Government of Iraq's full constitutional commitment to taking disarmament forward. That includes preparations to accede to the Chemical Weapons Convention, its intention to agree an additional protocol to its Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, and the establishment of a National Monitoring Directorate to oversee and control the movement of dual-use items.

We are not closing the file on weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, but we are changing the approach. We look forward to the Government of Iraq's report to the Security Council on its progress in adhering to all applicable treaties and international agreements, in harmonizing Iraqi export legislation with international standards, and on the progress made by the National Monitoring Directorate in its work.

It is the United Kingdom's assessment that for some time neither UNMOVIC nor the IAEA's Iraq Nuclear Verification Office have been in a position to carry out their functions in a way which serves the aims of disarmament and non-proliferation. Instead, therefore, we should now move forward and focus on ensuring that Iraq itself continues to take steps to support the international non-proliferation regime and itself adheres to disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and related international agreements. For our part, the United Kingdom will continue to help Iraq to do just that, both as a friend of Iraq and as a partner within the Multinational Force. But we also encourage Iraq's neighbours and the international community more broadly to cooperate with Iraq and assist it in implementing its non-proliferation obligations and building capacity in the relevant areas.

Mr. Al-Bader (Qatar) (*spoke in Arabic*): I wish at the outset to thank Mr. Demetrius Perricos, Acting Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), for his very illuminating briefing to the Council this morning. We congratulate him on the manner in which he has discharged his functions. Our thanks go also to Mr. Gustavo Zlauvinen, representative of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to the United Nations, for his briefing.

The situation in Iraq has changed markedly since the adoption of resolution 1284 (1999), on the establishment of UNMOVIC. It is no longer necessary for UNMOVIC to remain in that country in order to verify the Iraqi Government's fulfilment of its obligation to destroy weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. We are pleased that that page of this difficult file has been turned and that the reasons for the opening of that file have now disappeared.

The Commission devoted much energy and resources to its work in this area. It is now clear that Iraq has no weapons of mass destruction; we hope that the entire Middle East, including Israel, will be a region free of nuclear weapons.

We are therefore in favour of the Security Council adopting a draft resolution terminating the mandate of UNMOVIC and requesting that remaining unencumbered funds in the UNMOVIC account be transferred to the Government of Iraq in order to meet the aspirations of the Iraqi people.

We thank all those who have worked with UNMOVIC and the IAEA and all other international staff who successfully carried out the duties assigned to them by the Security Council. We hope that we can use the considerable experience acquired by UNMOVIC over the years to strengthen international peace and security.

Mr. De La Sablière (France) (*spoke in French*): I wish first of all to thank the Acting Executive Chairman of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and the representative of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to the United Nations for their briefings this morning. I take note of the statements made by the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom and of the letter dated 24 April 2007 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Security Council (S/2007/236, annex).

For several months many in the Security Council have spoken in favour of the principle of closing the Iraq disarmament file, on which for some 16 years the international community has focused in response to the exceptional defiance of the former regime of Saddam Hussein. It did so while seeking to ensure that the various dimensions of that sensitive file were duly addressed.

The first is the political dimension. The context has changed. Iraq has regained its sovereignty, and a democratically elected Government legitimately wishes to take control of its future and, in particular, to shoulder its non-proliferation responsibilities.

The second is the security dimension. All of us, including the Iraqis, know how important it is to ensure that Iraq not become once again a threat to the region or to itself and that any remaining proliferation risks — in particular in the light of recent history and the unstable security situation — be properly addressed.

The final dimension relates to the United Nations, and in particular to the Security Council, which was deeply involved in this matter and which can take the important decision to close the file only with full understanding of it and possessing sufficient information to take such a decision.

Thus, France has taken note with interest of this morning's briefings to the Council by the representatives of the IAEA and of UNMOVIC. It is crucial that in shaping its assessment it takes account of the briefings of those two bodies, which possess unparalleled expertise in this area. In that regard, my delegation wishes to pay special tribute to the unique multidisciplinary activities carried out by UNMOVIC and the IAEA — both in the field, until 2003, in the case of UNMOVIC, and outside Iraq, where remarkable work in compiling and analysing data was carried out, including by representatives of the coalition.

France takes note today of the United Kingdom and United States assessment that all measures have been taken since March 2003 to guarantee Iraq's respect for its obligations in the field of disarmament, in accordance with Security Council resolutions. My country also takes note of the letter dated 24 April 2007 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Security Council (S/2007/236, annex), setting out the request of the Government of Iraq that the mandates of UNMOVIC and the IAEA be terminated within Iraq, along with the conviction of the Iraqi authorities that weapons of mass destruction that could justify the continuation of those mandates are no longer present in Iraq. My country also notes with interest the Iraqi Government's commitment to full accession to the international non-proliferation regime.

In that light, France wishes to outline a number of ideas: an affirmation that the prohibited programmes begun by the Saddam Hussein regime have been eliminated thanks to the effectiveness of United Nations inspections; a reminder that, while not every issue has been resolved, a low level of uncertainty remains; acknowledgement that the sovereign Government of Iraq is now in charge and that, in spite of the level of uncertainty, it is no longer justified to continue the exceptional monitoring regime carried out by UNMOVIC and the IAEA; and the need to

strengthen regional security and ensure compliance with international non-proliferation obligations.

On that basis, France is prepared to respond favourably to the request of the Iraqi Government and to vote in favour of draft resolution S/2007/390, submitted by the United Kingdom and the United States. We hope that Iraq will fully shoulder its responsibilities and its international obligations by committing itself to adhering to the principal international instruments in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation and by adopting apt and effective national legislation and provisions.

We also express the desire that these commitments be implemented as soon as possible and that, one year from now, Iraq will thus be able to report to the Security Council on the progress that has been made, as provided in the draft resolution.

The President (*spoke in French*): I give the floor to the representative of Iraq.

Mr. Al Bayati (Iraq): Mr. President, allow me at the outset to express my delegation's high consideration for your presidency during this historic meeting for my country, Iraq, and for all the countries that seek to live in peace and aim to achieve progress and prosperity.

We commend the efforts of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), its predecessor, the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to disarm the weapons of mass destruction of the Saddam regime. We thank Mr. Dimitrius Perricos for his report, although he concentrated mostly on the past. We, with our friends in the world, are concentrating on the present and the future. We also thank Mr. Gustavo Zlauvinen for his positive report.

When the Security Council adopts the draft resolution to terminate the mandates of UNMOVIC and the IAEA's Iraq Nuclear Verification Office, an appalling chapter in Iraq's modern history, which has had a destructive impact on its people, will be closed. As is well known, the mandates of UNMOVIC, its predecessor, UNSCOM, and the IAEA were to destroy, remove and render harmless Iraq's weapons of mass destruction — weapons that the previous regime was keen to acquire and to use against its own people and to threaten Iraq's neighbours, the stability of the region and the whole world.

Disarming the previous regime of its weapons of mass destruction, which was the responsibility of the international community, was not an easy or painless task. The Iraqi people paid a very heavy price during that period of time due to the regime's possession of those weapons and its refusal to cooperate with the relevant international bodies responsible for their elimination — a price which led to the loss of thousands of innocent lives, in addition to a waste of national resources and the total destruction of the infrastructure.

When this dreadful chapter ends, the Government and people of Iraq will look forward to a better life, with strong determination to live in peace among themselves, their neighbours and with the entire world.

The draft resolution before the Council will put several obligations on Iraq. We consider them to be national obligations rather than international commitments. We have committed ourselves, in article 9, paragraph (e) of our Constitution, to the following:

> "The Iraqi Government shall respect and implement Iraq's international commitments regarding the non-proliferation, non-development, non-production, and non-use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Associated equipment, material, technologies and communications systems for use in the development, manufacture, production and use of such weapons shall be banned."

In addition, the Government of Iraq fully cooperated with the Iraq Survey Group.

As mentioned in the letter dated 8 April 2007 from His Excellency the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Hoshyar Zebari, to the President of the Security Council, attached as annex II to the draft resolution, the Iraqi Government reiterates its commitment to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the safeguards agreement of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Biological Weapons Convention and the 1925 Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare.

In addition, the Iraqi technical authorities have drafted a law on Iraq's accession to the Chemical

Weapons Convention. That law is currently before the parliament with a view to its adoption as soon as possible. Preparations are also under way for the accession to the Model Additional Protocol of the IAEA safeguards regime and to other international treaties and arrangements concerning disarmament and non-proliferation.

We consider the Council's adoption of the draft resolution to terminate the mandate of UNMOVIC and the IAEA's Iraq Nuclear Verification Office as a reaffirmation that all prohibitions related to trade with Iraq and the provision of financial or economic resources to Iraq established by the relevant Security Council resolutions — in particular resolutions 661 (1990) and 687 (1991) — shall no longer apply. We emphasize that Iraq is keen, now and in the future, to fulfil all its obligations and commitments concerning disarmament and non-proliferation. We look forward to transferring the assets from UNMOVIC's escrow account to the Development Fund for Iraq, as well as UNMOVIC's material and properties to the Government of Iraq, during the three-month period determined by the draft resolution.

We commit ourselves to fulfilling our obligations, in accordance with the draft resolution to be adopted. The first of these is to inform the Security Council within one year on progress made in adhering to all applicable disarmament and non-proliferation treaties and other arrangements, as mentioned in the draft resolution. The National Monitoring Directorate will be committed to controlling the transfer of dual-use material within a mechanism based on international standards.

The Iraqi people and Government are looking forward to all Security Council members voting in favour of the draft resolution. We extend our gratitude to those Council members who supported Iraq in its efforts to close this chapter.

While we greatly appreciate the Council's adoption of this draft resolution, which will lead towards enabling Iraq to contribute, along with the international community, to the maintenance of peace, security and stability in our region and the world — we also look forward to its consideration of an appropriate mechanism to address another heavy burden for Iraq — namely, compensation — in a manner that will ease and end the financial burden that has prevented Iraq from fully using its resources and allocating them to development and progress. This compensation is a result of the invasion by the previous regime of our neighbouring country, Kuwait. The Iraqi people, who suffered from the regime's brutal practices, should not be held responsible.

The President (*spoke in French*): It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

I shall first give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements before the voting.

Mr. Kumalo (South Africa): We, too, would like to convey the South African Government's appreciation to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and its predecessor, the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) for the outstanding and highly professional work they have carried out, often in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles that were placed in their way. We pay tribute to the present and former staff members of these organizations, including the former Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC, Dr. Hans Blix, who worked under extremely difficult conditions.

At the outset, we should recall that the destruction of Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programmes and missile systems was set out by the Security Council in resolution 687 (1991) as a precondition for the ceasefire that ended the first Gulf war. The sanctions against Iraq have been linked to the question of whether Iraq still possessed weapons of mass destruction programmes and related delivery systems or the intention to reconstitute those programmes.

It is also important to recall in that regard that the entire Security Council programme to disarm Iraq was based from the outset on a regional dimension. Paragraph 14 of resolution 687 (1991) clearly states that disarmament in Iraq would,

> "represent steps towards the goal of establishing in the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction and all missiles for their

delivery and the objective of a global ban on chemical weapons".

That provision was later to be re-emphasized through the adoption of resolution 1284 (1999). Those Chapter VII resolutions remain in force, and hence the Council continues to be bound by its duty to help bring about nuclear, chemical and biological weapons disarmament and the removal of related delivery systems in the Middle East. The draft resolution also does not adequately clarify what will become of the proliferation-sensitive material in UNMOVIC's archives and the roster of experts. It is now incumbent upon all members of the Security Council to discharge their responsibly to oversee the appropriate reallocation or disposal of the UNMOVIC material and equipment so that available information and expertise is retained within the United Nations system with appropriate safeguards.

The international community now needs to support the new Iraqi Government in its efforts to transform Iraq into a stable and peaceful country that is part of a Middle East region that is free of weapons of mass destruction.

South Africa will vote in favour of the draft resolution, even though we would have preferred the mandate of the United Nations weapons inspectors to be closed on the basis of a United Nations report.

Mr. Kleib (Indonesia): My delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution (S/2007/390) before the Council on the termination of the mandates of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Iraq. The current disarmament situation in Iraq has improved compared to the time when UNMOVIC was established. We therefore believe that the continuation of the mandates of UNMOVIC and the IAEA is no longer required. The closing of the mandate constitutes a major step in recognizing that a chapter in the history of Iraq has been closed and reaffirms that the new Iraq is committed to its disarmament and non-proliferation obligations.

My delegation believes that the expertise and experience gained during the many years of operation of UNMOVIC are invaluable assets to the international community. We hope they will not be lost and will remain available to an independent and multilateral verification system in the future. While we would have liked to see a prior technical assessment of the significance of the remaining unresolved disarmament issues in Iraq before closure, we can understand the difficulty of verifying all remaining issues. We hope however, that the remaining unresolved disarmament issues will finally be resolved and will not be beyond reach. In that regard, we note the commitment of the Government of Iraq as indicated in its constitution to fulfil its obligations in the disarmament and non-proliferation field. We hope it takes the necessary steps to implement that obligation, including early accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention. We are hopeful that the implementation of Iraq's disarmament commitment will contribute to the early establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery in the Middle East.

Iraq is now experiencing a major transformation. Iraqis are embracing a new statehood based on democracy, the rule of law and participatory development. It is not always easy for the Iraqis to proceed in this new direction, in particular when security circumstances remain grim in the country. We empathize with the Iraqis, who face many challenges as they embark on that process. Hence, we believe that the conclusion of the mandates of UNMOVIC and the IAEA in Iraq will provide an opportunity for the Iraqis to reallocate their resources in order to meet other urgent needs and priorities of the country.

Finally, my delegation wishes to extend its appreciation to UNMOVIC and the IAEA for their dedicated professionalism and contributions in the implementation of their mandates throughout the years in Iraq.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now put to the vote the draft resolution contained in document S/2007/390.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Belgium, China, Congo, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Slovakia, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Russian Federation

The President (*spoke in French*): The result of the voting is as follows: 14 votes in favour, none

against and 1 abstention. The draft resolution has been adopted as resolution 1762 (2007).

I shall now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Allow me first to express my delegation's gratitude to Mr. Perricos for his final briefing on the activities of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), its predecessor, the United Nations Special Commission, and their many years of work in Iraq. We take note of Mr. Zlauvinen's briefing on the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) regarding Iraq's nuclear programme. We have heard the statements made by the representatives of the United Kingdom and the United States reflecting their countries' interpretation of the question of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. We are grateful to the Permanent Representative of Iraq, Mr. Al Bayati, for setting out Baghdad's position on Iraq's future activities in the area of non-proliferation and disarmament.

The Russian delegation believes that the model for terminating the mandate of the Commission, as outlined in draft resolution S/2007/390, submitted by the United Kingdom and the United States, deviates from our understanding of that question. The flaw in the process as outlined is that it does not provide for UNMOVIC certification regarding the closing of the Iraq disarmament file. Unresolved questions remain relating to the unclear fate of Iraqi military installations monitored by the Commission and remaining stocks of chemical and biological weapons and dual-use items. It is being suggested that we should forget about the residue of uncertainty regarding the fate of dozens of Iraqi missiles which United Nations inspectors, since early 1993, have been unable to destroy.

The resolution just adopted by the Council provides no clear answers regarding the presence in Iraq of weapons of mass destruction as of March 2003. In that respect, Russia has frequently proposed to the sponsors that they submit to the Security Council those elements of the Duelfer report of the Iraq Survey Group that relate to UNMOVIC's mandate with regard to certification of the international process. The sponsors, however, preferred not to do that.

For the purpose of ensuring stability in the region, it was our belief that in the process of working on the draft resolution it was important to clarify outstanding questions relating, in particular, to the creation of a national export control mechanism; involving Iraq in multilateral agreements on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and clarifying the fate of its remnants of certain weapons and means of production not destroyed by United Nations inspectors prior to 2003. Thanks to our efforts, some of those points are reflected in the resolution just adopted, but unfortunately not to the proper degree.

Taking into account the entire range of issues, we abstained in the vote.

Mr. Li Kexin (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): In a historic decision, the Security Council mandated a full inspection and verification of weapons of mass destruction in the possession of Iraq and their complete destruction. Both the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) made painstaking efforts to that end. Their dedication and professionalism in conditions of extreme hardship and danger are highly impressive.

Mr. Hans Blix, former Chairman of UNMOVIC; Mr. ElBaradei, Director General of IAEA; and Mr. Demetrius Perricos, Acting Executive Chairman of UNMOVIC all led their teams with strict discipline, impartiality, transparency and professionalism. We express our profound appreciation and admiration to them for their devotion to finding the truths that will stand the test of history.

In its resolutions 687 (1991) and 1284 (1999), the Security Council demanded that Iraq destroy all its weapons of mass destruction. Convinced that the disarmament of Iraq would be achieved by peaceful means, China supported the United Nations inspection and verification activities in Iraq, which not only were in the interests of Iraq's security and stability, but would also contribute to peace and tranquillity in the Gulf region and the Middle East as a whole. With that in mind, China recommended numerous experts to UNMOVIC, one of whom gave his life in the line of duty.

The situation in Iraq has undergone tremendous changes since the establishment of UNMOVIC. The Iraqi people have elected a new Government that is devoted to the post-war political and economic

reconstruction of the country and its reintegration into regional and international affairs. In his letter of 24 April 2007, Foreign Minister Zebari of Iraq informed the President of the Security Council that

> "the Permanent Constitution of the Government of Iraq states that: 'The Iraqi Government shall respect and implement Iraq's international obligations regarding the non-proliferation, non-development, non-production and non-utilization of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and shall prohibit associated equipment, materiel, technologies and communication systems for use in the development, manufacture, production and utilization of such weapons' (*S/2007/236, para. 2*).

Iraq has also created relevant bodies to ensure that its international obligations in disarmament and non-proliferation are honoured.

China appreciates and acknowledges the aforementioned efforts of the Government of Iraq. China understands and consents to Iraq's urgent request that UNMOVIC be dissolved. We hope that Iraq will take the termination of the mandates of UNMOVIC and the IAEA Iraq Nuclear Verification Office as a new starting point and live up to the expectations of the international community by honouring its commitments and effectively meeting its obligations in disarmament and non-proliferation, thus restoring its position in the international community as a responsible member that contributes to the maintenance of security and stability in the Middle East.

The establishment of a region free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East is the common aspiration and objective of the international community, as well as a requirement of resolution 687 (1991). In the current circumstances, it assumes special significance because it would facilitate the building of mutual trust and contribute to easing tensions in the Middle East. China supports all efforts aimed at establishing a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and hopes that it can be achieved at an early date.

The President (*spoke in French*): In light of the resolution just adopted, this was the last briefing by the representatives of the United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission and of the International Atomic Energy Agency presented to the Council on the situation concerning Iraq. I wish therefore, on behalf of the members of the Council, to express our appreciation to the personnel of the Commission and the Agency for their important contributions in carrying out the mandates entrusted to them by the Security Council.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5711

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5711th meeting

Friday, 29 June 2007, 1.05 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Verbeke	(Belgium)
Members:	China	Mr. Du Xiacong
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Mr. Tachie-Menson
	Indonesia	Mr. Kleib
	Italy	Mr. Azzarello
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Peru	Mr. Chávez
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Sulaiti
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Slovakia	Mr. Bartho
	South Africa	Mr. Kumalo
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott Sanders

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Thirteenth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2007/275)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-40473 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 1.05 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Thirteenth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2007/275)

The President (*spoke in French*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Djedje (Côte d'Ivoire) and Mr. Zakané (Burkina Faso) took seats at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in French*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2007/275, which contains the thirteenth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire. Members also have before them document S/2007/389, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Belgium, China, Congo, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President (*spoke in French*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1763 (2007).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5712

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5712th meeting

Friday, 29 June 2007, 1.10 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Verbeke	(Belgium)
Members:	China	Mr. Du Xiacong
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Mr. Tachie-Menson
	Indonesia	Mr. Kleib
	Italy	Mr. Azzarello
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Peru	Mr. Chávez
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Sulaiti
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Slovakia	Mr. Bartho
	South Africa	Mr. Kumalo
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir Emyr Jones Parry
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott Sanders

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-40575 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 1.10 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with the decision taken by the Council at its 5711th meeting, I invite the representatives of Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire to participate in this meeting, in accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

> "The Security Council strongly condemns the attack committed on 29 June 2007 in Bouaké against the Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire, Mr. Guillaume Soro, that resulted in several deaths, and any attempt to destabilize the peace process by force. It stresses that the perpetrators of this criminal act must be brought to justice.
>
> "The Security Council recalls its support for the political agreement signed by President Laurent Gbagbo and Mr. Guillaume Soro in Ouagadougou on 4 March 2007 under the facilitation of the Chairperson of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina Faso. It stresses that it is critical that all parties continue to work within the framework of the Ouagadougou political agreement, which is the way to settle the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2007/25.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on the agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5713

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5713th meeting

Friday, 29 June 2007, 1.15 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Verbeke	(Belgium)
Members:	China	Mr. Du Xiacong
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Mr. Tachie-Menson
	Indonesia	Mr. Kleib
	Italy	Mr. Azzarello
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Peru	Mr. Chávez
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Sulaiti
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Slovakia	Mr. Bartho
	South Africa	Mr. Kumalo
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott Sanders

Agenda

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-40581 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 1.15 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The President (*spoke in French*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Germany, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Vukobratović (Bosnia and Herzegovina) took a seat at the Council table; Mrs. Kania (Germany) took the seat reserved for her at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President (*spoke in French*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2007/394, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the Russian Federation.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Belgium, China, Congo, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President (*spoke in French*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1764 (2007).

I now give the floor to those members of the Council who wish to make statements following the voting.

Ms. Pierce (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom voted in favour of the resolution today, but I would like to give an explanation of our position. I would like to place on record the United Kingdom's strong support for the role and responsibilities of the High Representative, who is also the European Union's Special Representative. We welcome Mr. Miroslav Lajčák to this role and we pledge our commitment to cooperate with him as he discharges his responsibilities under the Dayton Peace Agreement and subsequent Peace Implementation Council (PIC) decisions and as he leads the international community on the ground and helps advance, in partnership with the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnia's Euro-Atlantic integration.

As the resolution notes, it is the PIC Steering Board that appointed the High Representative and that decides on the mandate of his Office. While formal agreement of the Security Council is not necessary, we welcome the Council's support for those decisions. We hope that the leaders in Bosnia will see the adoption of this resolution as an indication of the international community's firm backing for Mr. Lajčák and his Office and for his future decisions, as it has backed all previous High Representatives and their decisions.

We are disappointed at the nationalist sentiments expressed by some Bosnian leaders in recent months. These serve only to retard the reform process and hinder the building of a multi-ethnic, democratic and prosperous country on the verge of getting into Europe.

Our understanding is that nothing in this resolution or those it recalls impacts on other Balkans issues being considered by the Council.

Finally, I would like to say a word about the PIC declaration of 19 June 2007. That declaration confirmed that the Office of the High Representative would remain in place and would continue to carry out its mandate and that the aim is closure of the Office by 30 June 2008. The PIC will review the situation in October 2007 and in February 2008. Those assessments will naturally take into account the position of security

and stability in the region. We hope that that security and stability will be well and truly established by that point and will be irreversible.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian Federation welcomes the Council's adoption today of a draft resolution prepared by my delegation on the Council's agreement to the appointment of Ambassador Miroslav Lajčák as the new High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina. This decision is in keeping with the Dayton Agreement, previous Council resolutions on Bosnia and Herzegovina and previously reached agreements. The very fact of the adoption of this resolution and its content speaks for itself. We expect that the new High Representative, Ambassador Lajčák, will continue with the thoughtful and constructive approach taken by his predecessor, Mr. Schwarz-Schilling, aimed at helping the Bosnian parties to reach a compromise decision through constructive dialogue. We believe that Ambassador Lajčák will continue to work along those lines, providing maximum assistance in the area of the promotion of diplomatic mechanisms and local initiatives and rejecting the practice of the unlimited use of the Bonn powers.

I should like once again to express our gratitude to Mr. Schwarz-Schilling for his work in the post of High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The President (*spoke in French*): There are no further speakers inscribed on my list.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.20 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5714

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5714th meeting

Monday, 9 July 2007, 12.35 p.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wang	(China)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	Congo	Mr. Makayat-Safouesse
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Ghana	Mr. Yankey
	Indonesia	Mr. Budiman
	Italy	Mr. Azzarello
	Panama	Mr. Arias
	Peru	Mr. Chávez
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Qahtani
	Russian Federation	Mr. Rogachev
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	South Africa	Ms. Dye
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Johnston
	United States of America	Mr. McBride

Agenda

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-41815 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 12.35 p.m.

Expression of thanks to the retiring President

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): As this is the first meeting of the Security Council for the month of July, I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute, on behalf of the Council, to His Excellency Mr. Johan Verbeke, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations, for his service as President of the Security Council for the month of June 2007. I am sure I speak for all members of the Council in expressing deep appreciation to Ambassador Verbeke for the great diplomatic skill with which he conducted the Council's business last month.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Spain and Yemen, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Al-Sheikh (Yemen) and Mr. Yáñez-Barnuevo (Spain) took seats at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Following consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council unequivocally condemns the terrorist attack that took place in Marib, Republic of Yemen, on 2 July 2007, and expresses its deepest sympathy and condolences to the victims of these attacks and their families and to the peoples and Governments of the Republic of Yemen and the Kingdom of Spain.

"The Security Council underlines the need to bring the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of this horrendous act to justice, and urges all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and resolutions 1373 (2001), 1566 (2004) and 1624 (2005), to cooperate with and provide support and assistance, as appropriate, to the Government of Yemen in this regard.

"The Security Council reaffirms that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

"The Security Council further reaffirms the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. The Council reminds States that they must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

"The Security Council reiterates its determination to combat all forms of terrorism, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2007/26.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 12.40 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.5715

Security Council

Distr.: General
11 July 2007

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 5715th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 11 July 2007, at 10 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"On 11 July 2007, the Security Council, pursuant to annex II, sections A and B of resolution 1353 (2001), held its 5715th meeting in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire.

"The Security Council and the troop-contributing countries heard a briefing under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure by Mr. Hédi Annabi, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

"Members of the Council, Mr. Annabi and representatives of participating troop-contributing countries had an exchange of views."

07-42197 (E) 110707

United Nations S/PV.5716

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5716th meeting

Monday, 16 July 2007, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mr. Kleib
	Italy	Mr. Spatafora
	Panama	Mr. Arias
	Peru	Mr. Voto-Bernales
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Ansari
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Matulay
	South Africa	Mr. Kumalo
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Johnston
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott Sanders

Agenda

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Thirteenth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2007/275)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-42527 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Côte d'Ivoire

Thirteenth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (S/2007/275)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Burkina Faso and Côte d'Ivoire, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Djedje (Côte d'Ivoire) and Mr. Koudougou (Burkina Faso) took seats at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2007/275, which contains the thirteenth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire. Members also have before them document S/2007/430, which contains the text of a draft resolution prepared in the course of the Council's prior consultations.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Belgium, China, Congo, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1765 (2007).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 10.15 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5717

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5717th meeting

Monday, 16 July 2007, 10.20 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mr. Kleib
	Italy	Mr. Spatafora
	Panama	Mr. Arias
	Peru	Mr. Voto-Bernales
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Ansari
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Matulay
	South Africa	Mr. Kumalo
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United States of America	Mr. Khalilzad

Agenda

Security Council mission

Report of the Security Council mission to Addis Ababa, Khartoum, Accra, Abidjan and Kinshasa, 14 to 21 June 2007 (S/2007/421 and Corr.1)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-42533 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Security Council mission

Report of the Security Council mission to Addis Ababa, Khartoum, Accra, Abidjan and Kinshasa, 14 to 21 June 2007 (S/2007/421 and Corr.1)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

The representatives of the aforementioned countries took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter dated 16 July 2007 from the representative of Ghana in which he requests that Ms. Lila Ratsifandrihamanana, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, be invited to participate in the consideration of this item under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure. If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Ms. Lila Ratsifandrihamanana, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations.

It is so decided.

I invite Ms. Ratsifandrihamanana to take the seat reserved for her at the side of the Council Chamber.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them documents S/2007/421 and Corr.1, containing the report of the Security Council mission to Africa.

At this meeting, the Council will hear briefings by the following four Ambassadors on the Security Council mission to Africa: Mr. Dumisani Kumalo, Permanent Representative of South Africa, who together with Mr. Emyr Jones Parry, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, led the mission to Addis Ababa, Khartoum and Accra; Ms. Karen Pierce, Chargé d'affaires of the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom, who will brief on behalf of Ambassador Jones Parry; Mr. Jorge Voto-Bernales, Permanent Representative of Peru, who led the mission to Abidjan; and Mr. Jean-Marc de La Sablière, Permanent Representative of France, who led the mission to Kinshasa.

I shall now give the floor to Mr. Kumalo.

Mr. Kumalo (South Africa): I have the honour to report on the Council's visit to Addis Ababa, Khartoum and Accra, which we undertook jointly with Ambassador Jones Parry of the United Kingdom.

One of the most important things that we did was to spend significant time in Addis Ababa with Chairman Konaré and other high officials, discussing issues that always end up before this very Council as it tries to find a way in which, in partnership with the African Union (AU), we could make our work much smoother and understand the positions of two different bodies that happen to deal with similar issues.

One of the things we also did while in Addis Ababa was to hold a formal Security Council meeting together with the African Union Peace and Security Council. Out of that meeting came a statement which we have asked the President to circulate as an official document of the Security Council. One of the things that came out of our meeting with the African Union Peace and Security Council was an agreement that we would like to have these consultation meetings between the United Nations Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council take place at least once a year, if possible, and in each of the capitals. They could come this way, or we could go that way, but at least we would meet once a year. We also discussed common issues that come before this Council because most of the resolutions that we end up adopting originate with the African Union Peace and Security Council.

With Chairman Konaré we discussed an issue that was very important to our mission and that was upcoming: our trip to the Sudan. The discussion related to what this Council can do in terms of preparing a resolution on the Sudan. Chairman Konaré, as shown in paragraph 20 of the document before us, urged the Security Council to "adopt a resolution authorizing the operation and recommending United Nations funding" (S/2007/421, para. 20). Mr. Konaré said that, in his view, "assured funding would generate sufficient numbers of African troops to maintain the African character of the operation" (ibid.), as per agreement between the United Nations and the AU.

As the Council knows, there is a draft before us that has been provided by the United Kingdom, as the lead country. We are looking at the draft, but we just want to be sure that it stays in the spirit that we had on the trip. It was a spirit of cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union and the Government of the Sudan in addressing the issues of Darfur. That spirit is very important in terms of what will be contained in the resolution, which should essentially be an implementation resolution.

When we arrived in Khartoum, we met first with Foreign Minister Ajawin, together with his high-level officials, including the governors of the three Darfur States. We engaged with them about the concerns that this Council has about the situation in Darfur. Later on, we also met with President Al-Bashir, and both President Al-Bashir and Foreign Minister Ajawin, as reflected in paragraph 24 of the report, confirmed their full acceptance of the hybrid United Nations-African Union operation. They said that they accepted it without any conditionalities and expected the Security Council to move ahead and adopt a resolution.

Our understanding of what the operation would be is contained in paragraph 25 of the report, which states that the operation would be as outlined in the African Union-United Nations plans for the hybrid operation in Darfur contained in the 5 June report of the Secretary-General (S/2007/307/Rev.1), and would be mandated by the AU Peace and Security Council — which they have already done — and the United Nations Security Council. We are looking at a draft before us and trying to make it more relevant to the understanding that we had all the time.

Another issue that is linked to the visit to Addis Ababa and to Khartoum is that the Council would come back and consider requesting the preparation of joint African Union-United Nations timelines for deployment of the hybrid operation in Darfur. This timeline is important, because we think it important for everybody to know what is expected of the Government of Sudan, what is expected of the AU and what is expected of the Security Council.

The mission then proceeded to Accra to see President Kufuor of Ghana, the Chairperson of the African Union. Even though it was the eve of the AU Summit, President Kufuor was able to set aside significant time to meet with the United Nations Security Council team. We had a working meeting that included the Foreign Minister of Ghana, at which we discussed a number of issues, including Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Côte d'Ivoire; the latter two States were part of our itinerary. President Kufuor encouraged the Security Council to follow up on those issues and adopt a resolution that would quickly facilitate the deployment of a hybrid operation in Sudan, as the situation was very serious and needed urgent attention.

So, I must say, in conclusion, that, for my delegation, it was an honour to be co-leader of this trip, and I am sure that members of this Council — and indeed, members of the wider United Nations community — will see in this report that we tried to the best of our ability to address all the urgent issues that are important to the African continent. We also tried to seek solutions and ways in which we could deal with those issues. In the report, members will see, of course, that the issue was not only Sudan, but we did receive reports on other urgent issues on the African continent, including the issue of the Lord's Resistance Army and other relevant issues.

I present this report and say that, together with my co-leader, we think that we met the mandate that the Council had set out for us with this mission, and it was indeed an honour for us to carry out the mission.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Ambassador Kumalo for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Her Excellency Ms. Karen Pierce, who will speak on behalf of Ambassador Jones Parry.

Ms. Pierce (United Kingdom): Thank you to Ambassador Kumalo for his interesting briefing. It is my honour to follow Ambassador Kumalo in

presenting the report today and to speak on behalf of Ambassador Jones Parry, who co-led the mission. May I say, at the start, that it was very good as a curtain-raiser to see President Konaré talk to the Security Council, along with Mr. Djinnit and Mr. Adada, last Friday.

As Ambassador Kumalo said, Africa is a continent of critical importance to the Security Council and to the United Nations more broadly. Around 55,000 United Nations peacekeepers are deployed in Africa. It is a continent that this Security Council discusses more than any other. And it is a region where the United Nations has made some of its most impressive advances, but has also suffered some of its most serious setbacks.

Against this backdrop, the United Nations and the African Union (AU) are venturing, we believe, into a period of unprecedented coordination and cooperation, as we try together to tackle conflicts like those in Darfur and Somalia. It was against that context that the Security Council decided to visit Africa from 16 to 20 June and to build further the relations of the United Nations with the AU on issues of peace and security, as well as to visit Sudan, Côte d'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to discuss the engagement of the United Nations there.

Ambassador Kumalo, I think, has said most of what needed to be said. He was there, and I was not. So, I will be very brief in my remarks, but to say that we, of course, support what Ambassador Kumalo said about the value of holding such a mission.

Discussions in Addis with the AU Commission and Peace and Security Council ranged across a variety of issues. Ambassador Kumalo mentioned some of them; others that we discussed included Chad, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia and Eritrea and the Comoros. The sheer number of issues, I think, shows how much the United Nations and Africa can learn from each other, but also how important it is, if we are to be successful, that we establish mechanisms for deeper cooperation. And, in order to make some progress in achieving that, the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council adopted in Addis a joint communiqué, which has been issued as a Security Council document. The communiqué sets out concrete steps to this end. These include the annual meetings that Ambassador Kumalo mentioned, the sharing of United Nations-AU experiences on working methods and support for further development of the African peace and security architecture. The communiqué also set out the agreement of the two Councils to examine the possibility of financing a peacekeeping mission undertaken by the AU or under its authority. We will obviously want to consider further with partners how to take forward these various action points in the communiqué.

Perhaps I can say a brief word about Darfur, which Ambassador Kumalo has already mentioned, and the meeting that we were fortunate enough to have with President Kufuor of Ghana and the meetings that the Council mission had when in Khartoum itself. As Ambassador Kumalo said, the Sudanese Foreign Minister did tell the Security Council mission that the Government of Sudan accepted the hybrid operation in full and without conditionality, and we think that is a very important commitment. This was, of course, later confirmed by President Al-Bashir, who urged rapid implementation and swift agreement on United Nations funding. Naturally, we are in agreement with that. We hope that this marks a turning point in terms of cooperation between the United Nations, the AU and the Government of the Sudan. Our draft United Nations Security Council resolution, which has been referred to, will build on this by endorsing the United Nations-AU agreement on the hybrid operation, commending Sudan for its agreement. Following the approach in the AU-United Nations joint report in the Addis communiqué, the draft highlights the political and humanitarian stance taken to resolve the Darfur crisis.

We all know, and we have all said many times in this Council, that there is no military solution to the crisis in Darfur. We, therefore, think it right that the draft resolution that we are bringing forward now in mandating the hybrid and its implementation focuses also on the political process and humanitarian tracks. At the same time, we must have confidence that commitments entered into on all sides, including the rebels, will be kept. That will guide our approach to the resolution. We look forward to discussing with partners, inside and outside the Security Council, how to take this forward to the next stage. I should also tell members of the Council that we are in touch with the Government of Sudan, both in New York and in Khartoum.

If I may briefly say something about other issues, the AU Commission, the AU Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council also

agreed in Addis on the urgent need for further efforts to achieve political reconciliation and ensure humanitarian relief in Somalia. AU Peace and Security Council members urged the United Nations to deploy a peacekeeping mission to Somalia. In its turn, the Security Council briefed the Peace and Security Council on its approach to the Ethiopia-Eritrea border dispute and the Lord's Resistance Army, and the Peace and Security Council briefed the Security Council on the AU's efforts to resolve the political crisis in the Comoros, particularly the island of Anjouan.

Our hope is that these outcomes and this mission represent the beginning of a new phase of broader, deeper cooperation between the United Nations and the AU in areas where we share mutual interests and responsibilities in terms of peace and security in Africa.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Ambassador Pierce for her briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Jorge Voto-Bernales.

Mr. Voto-Bernales (Peru) (*spoke in Spanish*): In Côte d'Ivoire, the mission emphasized the Security Council's support for the Ouagadougou agreement, which is the result of the parties' ownership of the peace process. The mission urged its interlocutors to ensure full implementation of the agreement, particularly by achieving the goals leading to the holding of free, fair and transparent elections.

In that respect, the mission stressed the need for effective follow-up to the Ouagadougou agreement. Likewise, it called on the parties to abide by the established timetable as closely as possible and, at the same time, to protect the integrity of the process. The mission reaffirmed its firm commitment to ensuring the credibility of the electoral process in Côte d'Ivoire.

In addition, the mission expressed its serious concern at the persistence of the humanitarian and socio-economic crisis in Côte d'Ivoire and stressed the need to undertake efforts in the humanitarian, socio-economic and human rights areas, particularly with regard to children, women, displaced persons and other groups affected by the crisis.

At the conclusion of its report (S/2007/421), the mission made the following recommendations: that the Security Council continue to support the full implementation of the Ouagadougou political agreement and the role of the Facilitator; that the Security Council, taking full account of the advice of the Facilitator, follow up on the recent recommendations of the Secretary-General on updating and improving the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire in order to support the implementation of the Ouagadougou agreement; that the Secretary-General appoint a new Special Representative and head of UNOCI; and that the Security Council carefully examine the request for a partial lifting of the arms embargo regime — and that the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004), should it be necessary, carefully examine this matter in order to contribute to the peace process and to the peaceful implementation of the Ouagadougou agreement.

By adopting this morning's draft resolution, the Security Council has dealt with the first two recommendations. Still outstanding are the appointment of a new Special Representative and the possible consideration of a partial lifting of the embargo.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Ambassador Voto-Bernales for his briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Jean-Marc De La Sablière.

Mr. De La Sablière (France) (*spoke in French*): I already had the honour, on 26 June, to brief Security Council members on the outcomes of our visit to Kinshasa, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (see S/PV.5706). The visit was very useful. It was the eighth time that Security Council members had travelled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the first time that they had done so in the new context resulting from the first national democratic election held in the country in 40 years and from President Kabila's assumption of office on 6 December 2006. A Prime Minister was appointed on 30 December. A coalition Government was formed on 5 February 2007, and that Government presented a programme to the National Assembly on 22 February. The new context obviously calls for the development of a partnership between the United Nations and the Congolese authorities, and it is in that spirit that the mission visited Kinshasa.

The report (S/2007/421) recounts the visit in detail and then sets out the conclusions drawn by

Council members. I should like very briefly to touch upon the five recommendations contained in the report.

The mission recommended that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo seek a solution to the crisis in the Kivus through political and diplomatic means. The mission also stressed that the *mixage* experiment in North Kivu should be terminated and replaced with a real *brassage*, consistent with the principles of the integration of the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC). In addition, the mission recommended that the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda continue to strive to improve their diplomatic relations. Those two recommendations are at the top of the list, showing the importance that the mission's members accord to resolving the issue of the Kivus.

The third recommendation is that the Congolese authorities carry out security sector reform as a matter of priority, with a view to consolidating the achievements of the reform of the police, completing the integration of all army units, while completing also the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process. The fourth recommendation concerns the international partners of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The mission recommends that they organize and coordinate their support for security sector reform so as to maximize its efficiency. Finally, the mission recommends that the Congolese authorities and their main international partners organize themselves so as to make possible a continuing political dialogue. Those are the recommendations that we are making.

Before concluding, let me say once again how grateful we were for the welcome that we received in the Democratic Republic of the Congo from President Kabila, all the other authorities and the Congolese people. They know that the United Nations will always stand by them in facing the challenges that they must still meet.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Ambassador De La Sablière for his briefing.

I now give the floor to those Council members who wish to make comments in connection with the briefings that we have just heard.

Mr. Christian (Ghana): Allow me to thank Ambassadors Jones Parry, Kumalo, Voto-Bernales and De La Sablière for leading the mission to the various countries that it visited. My delegation commends them for their effective roles, which contributed to a large extent to the mission's success. We also express our appreciation for the courtesies and hospitality extended to our delegation by the authorities in the various capitals we visited. We are pleased by the positive comments made by various delegations about the warmth of the reception that was accorded by President Kufuor and the Government and the people of Ghana during our mission to Accra.

The exchange of views in Addis Ababa, among other things, enabled the Security Council and the African Union Commission to clarify ways to strengthen the relationship between them in the maintenance of peace and security in Africa. It also afforded the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council the opportunity to discuss how to achieve close cooperation between them to attain the shared objectives of peace and security in Africa.

My delegation believes that any proposals for African Union/United Nations cooperation concerning countries emerging from conflicts should take into account the African Union framework for post-conflict reconstruction and development as well as the peace and security components of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), both of which emphasize, among other things, the need to address the root causes of conflict in order to prevent countries emerging from conflict from suffering a relapse into chaos.

We wish to stress the importance of using the momentum generated by the Council's visit to Khartoum to accelerate progress on the peace process, peacekeeping and the humanitarian front. The agreements by the Government of Sudan to implement the Addis Ababa framework without conditions provide the Security Council and the African Union the opportunity to resolve the conflict in Darfur and bring an end to the suffering of the people of that region. We hope that the Security Council will demonstrate its unity on this issue and soon adopt a resolution authorizing the hybrid peacekeeping operation, which will lead to a comprehensive settlement of the crisis.

We acknowledge that the full implementation of the United Nations heavy support package for the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) and the deployment of two additional AMIS battalions are a

necessary foundation for the establishment of the hybrid operation.

While the African Union Peace and Security Council has authorized the deployment of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) to support efforts by the Transitional Federal Government to stabilize Somalia, facilitate dialogue and reconciliation and support development, it is apparent that more resources are required to ensure a more effective AMISOM process capable of carrying out effectively the peacekeeping operation. The United Nations role in generating such resources cannot be overemphasized.

During the Council's mission to Abidjan, we were impressed by the assurances given by the Ivorian leaders with regard to their continued commitment to the peace process. However, the recent assassination attempt on the life of Prime Minister Soro, which led to the deaths of some innocent civilians and which Ghana strongly condemns, demonstrates that the security situation is still fragile. We hope that the perpetrators will be brought to justice as it is important to block such efforts to derail the peace process.

My delegation is encouraged by the progress made so far by the parties in implementing the Ouagadougou agreement. Nonetheless, considering the list of missed deadlines and the remaining tasks yet to be accomplished, we should not underestimate the obstacles and challenges to be overcome in consolidating the peace process, so as to ensure that free and fair elections can be organized early next year.

That is why we believe that the resolution adopted by the Council this morning renewing the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and urging all parties concerned to redouble their efforts is a step in the right direction and must be backed by sustained action and commitment by the international community, in order to ensure that progress, which has up to now been mixed, becomes truly irreversible.

To this end, Ghana will continue to lend her unwavering support to the efforts of the facilitator, President Blaise Compaoré.

Mr. Verbeke (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): First of all, I would like to thank our colleagues from the United Kingdom, South Africa, Peru and France for their briefings, and to congratulate them on the great expertise that they demonstrated in leading this important visit by the Council to Africa.

My country, which, as the Council knows, attaches particular importance to the African continent, welcomes the fact that this mission took place during a month under our presidency.

The communiqué that was jointly adopted on 16 June last by this Council and the African Union's Peace and Security Council in Addis Ababa reflects the Belgian desire to see the relationship between the United Nations and the African Union better defined and based on coordination, cooperation and coherence.

Belgium greatly welcomes the exchange of views that took place between these two organizations on issues such as Sudan, Somalia, Côte d'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Belgium also welcomes the fact that, during its visit to Sudan, the Sudanese Government reaffirmed its unequivocal commitment to the hybrid operation. Belgium is of the view that efforts must now be made to ensure that this agreement is implemented without delay. By authorizing the deployment of the operation, we must ensure that the unity of command and control is scrupulously respected.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Security Council's visit took place in a new context, where the new democratically elected authorities are vigorously attacking the challenges of the country. Among these challenges, we should include the very disturbing situation in the east of the country, an issue that was referred to by all of our interlocutors, but also, and in more general terms, the difficult socio-economic conditions that persist, where the population is impatiently awaiting the dividends of peace.

This fragility requires the constant attention of the international community and of our Council with regard to the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It has been clearly shown that the elections have not resolved all problems. We should consider by what means our Council and the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) can contribute to consolidating the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo through partnership and through dialogue with the new authorities.

The benchmarking exercise that was established in resolution 1756 (2007) provides us with a unique

opportunity to better define the objectives for our action during this post-electoral phase, and will allow us to better match the available means with the desired objectives. Bringing peace and stability to the east will require the adoption of an innovative approach where the regional dimension must be fully taken into account.

To conclude and touch briefly upon the Côte d'Ivoire, the visit to Côte d'Ivoire allowed the Council to listen to the parties and to the facilitator in the new context that has been set by the Ouagadougou agreements. We have noted with pleasure that there is a new mood prevailing in Côte d'Ivoire and that the majority of the interlocutors considered a return to hostilities unlikely — even though the process remains fragile, as was shown by the recent attempted assassination of the Prime Minister.

The mission also noted that Ivorian political forces as a whole want the United Nations to continue to play an essential role in supporting the peace process. In spite of all of these positive developments, my delegation also notes that there has been a significant delay with regard to the implementation of the Ouagadougou agreement. Most of the work remains to be done with regard to organizing free, open and transparent elections, and my delegation would urge all parties involved in the Ivorian crisis to implement the provisions of the agreement without delay.

The President (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): Are there any other members of the Council who wish to make statements? If there is none, I shall now make a statement in my national capacity.

China highly appreciates the important role that the African Union has played over recent years. In mediating the conflicts in Africa by deploying peacekeeping operations in the hot spots in Africa, the African Union has made important contributions to easing regional tensions and resolving regional conflicts.

At present, the African Union faces a lot of difficulties in its peacekeeping operations in Darfur and Somalia and needs the assistance of the international community. The United Nations should continue to consolidate its partnership with the African Union in the field of peacekeeping operations and carry out long-term cooperation with the African Union by assisting it in the fields of technology, financing, logistics and training. China supports efforts to further strengthen communication and cooperation between the AU and the Security Council and looks forward to receiving feasible proposals from the Secretary-General in that regard.

On the question of the Sudan, China appreciates the initiative of the Sudanese Government to invite the Security Council mission, and its full and unconditional acceptance of the hybrid plan. There are still many difficulties and challenges as regards the next phase of the deployment of peacekeeping operations in Darfur. Full implementation of the plan requires cooperation and coordination between the international community and the Sudan. The United Nations and the African Union should start by addressing the many priority issues that exist — such as those relating to the mandate, the financing of troops, equipment and logistics.

At the moment, the Security Council is holding consultations on a draft resolution regarding the mandate of the hybrid operation. The draft resolution should focus on the mandate and on financing as the priorities of the hybrid operation, so as to reflect the international community's consensus on this issue and the cooperation that exists among the United Nations, the African Union and the Government of the Sudan, as well as the current positive momentum. The draft resolution should contribute to maintaining that momentum while avoiding irrelevant issues that would produce new controversies and delay the process of deployment.

A comprehensive and lasting solution to the question of Darfur not only calls for steadily advancing the deployment of peacekeeping operations; it also calls for accelerating the political process and attaching due importance to development and reconstruction in Darfur in order to eradicate the root causes of the conflict. At the moment, the political process is lagging behind the deployment of peacekeeping operations. The Security Council should take practical steps to move the process along. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has repeatedly called upon the international community to focus on long-term development in Darfur in order to eradicate the root causes of the crisis. That shows that the international community is developing a deeper understanding of the question of Darfur, and it deserves the attention of all parties.

China is concerned about developments in Côte d'Ivoire. During the Security Council's mission to Côte

d'Ivoire last month, all parties reiterated their commitment to the peace process. China would like to express its appreciation in that regard. Of course, the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire is still fraught with challenges. The top priority at the moment is to consolidate consensus among all parties, improve mutual confidence and implement commitments and the Ouagadougou agreement, with a view to establishing conditions for the general election.

In the current circumstances, the United Nations should continue to strengthen its coordination and cooperation with the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States in support of their good offices at the regional level.

The continued presence of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) is important for the maintenance of stability on the ground. China supports extending UNOCI's mandate as appropriate and is ready to join all other parties in their efforts to fully restore peace and stability in Côte d'Ivoire at an early date.

China congratulates the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the important progress made in its peace process. The top priority for the Democratic Republic of the Congo now is to safeguard its stability and security and to achieve economic development as soon as possible. With regard to the difficulties and challenges in the political and security fields, China is confident that all parties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will put the overall interest of the country above everything else and settle their differences through dialogue and consultation.

The security situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo remains fragile. We hope that, while speeding security sector reform, the Government will also pay attention to economic development, creating more jobs and improving the welfare of the people, in order that former combatants can truly be disarmed and reintegrated.

Since some of the armed groups in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo operate across the border, we hope that concerned countries of the region will act within the framework of the Pact on Peace, Security and Development in the Great Lakes Region, strengthening communication, building mutual trust and jointly participating in seeking a solution to the issue through dialogue.

The peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will depend upon ongoing attention from the international community. China will join the rest of the international community in continuing to provide all possible support for the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire.

Mr. Bailly-Niagri (Côte d'Ivoire) (*spoke in French*): The Permanent Representative of Côte d'Ivoire, who could not be here today, has instructed me to read out the following statement to the Security Council.

> "My delegation commends and thanks you, Mr. President, for organizing this meeting on the report (S/2007/421) of the Security Council's mission to Africa. Allow me also to express my deep gratitude to the other members of the Security Council.
>
> "For my delegation, the Council's mission to Africa to assess the situation on the ground was both a source of great satisfaction and a guarantee of success in the implementation of Security Council resolutions. Such missions will contribute to a realistic assessment by the Security Council of the problems in Africa, and as such should help the Council to develop consistent and progressive solutions tailored to resolving crises on the continent.
>
> "In that regard, the Security Council's mission to Côte d'Ivoire, which took place on 19 and 20 June 2007, was very much appreciated by Ivorian authorities, headed by President Laurent Gbagbo and Prime Minister Guillaume Soro. This is therefore an opportunity for my delegation to encourage the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this positive vein and to assure him that my country highly appreciates the fact that he is heading the United Nations. This is also an opportunity to pay tribute to the United Nations for its efforts in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as to South Africa, for its previous mediation, and to Burkina Faso, for its current role in the peace process.

"The situation in Côte d'Ivoire has evolved markedly since the signing of the Ouagadougou agreement, on 4 March 2004, which was the result of direct negotiations with the Forces nouvelles, initiated by President Gbagbo. My delegation is pleased to note that, as regards Côte d'Ivoire, the excellent report before the Council today provides a review of concrete developments in the peace process and contains recommendations for the proper implementation of the Ouagadougou agreement. That serves as further motivation for former warring parties, who have freely committed themselves to address the underlying causes of the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire. These include, inter alia, the issue of identifying the population, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, the dismantling of armed militias, dismantling the zone of confidence and the restoration of State authority and the deployment throughout the country of State administration with a view to organizing and holding national elections.

"I should also like to state before the Security Council that the Government of Côte d'Ivoire is seeking to carry out the peace process successfully. In that connection, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire has noted with interest the various views and suggestions made by the Security Council mission to Côte d'Ivoire.

"With respect to the mission's concerns in the humanitarian, socio-economic and human rights areas and with regard to the political and security situation — especially the problem of the ranks of the ex-combatants and their quotas — the group of negotiators, of which I have the honour to be part, is working with very good intelligence, with the assistance of the Burkinabé facilitator, in order to make specific proposals to the principal signatories of the Agreement. That means that despite the delays in certain areas of the Agreement and the incident of 29 June at Bouaké, the various parties have clearly demonstrated, in their declaration and in the council of ministers of 15 July 2007, their commitment to continue the peace process.

"The facts on the ground express that commitment with respect to the disarmament of the self-defence forces, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, restoring State authority throughout the country, holding mobile court hearings and voter identification. For example, we note, inter alia, that in Bouaké judges were set up within hours of the attack on the Prime Minister's airplane, and police chiefs were installed. In general, the peace process is moving forward normally, in accordance with all the points of the Ouagadougou Agreement.

"In terms of the social and political issues, President Gbagbo, believing that the Ivorian crisis stemmed essentially from an economic crisis marked by high rates of unemployment among youth, has established a civic service. Under that programme, the ex-combatants and militia members benefit from training. In other words, as the President of the Republic has said himself, the war is truly over. No one wants to make war any more. Throughout Côte d'Ivoire demonstrations in favour of peace are increasing among Ivorian on all sides. The considerable international community in Côte d'Ivoire is participating in all reconciliation efforts.

"In short, peace is made not only by the major players, but also by the great majority of the people living in the country. That explains the calm climate that we see at present. To maintain the peaceful sociopolitical climate now prevailing in Côte d'Ivoire and to more effectively combat insecurity, the Government has sought an exemption from the arms embargo in order to equip the national police.

"The Security Council mission met with the highest Ivorian authorities and with the Foreign Minister of Burkina Faso, Mr. Djibril Bassolé, in his capacity as representative of the President of Burkina Faso, Blaise Compaoré, current Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States and facilitator for the political dialogue between Ivorian parties. The mission also met with the major leaders of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the French commander of the force that supports the United Nations operation. Thus the Council mission was able to get an overview of the situation in Côte d'Ivoire.

"Therefore my delegation expresses its full support for the mission's recommendations. They

include the Council's support for full implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement and for the efforts of the facilitator. The Council should take into account the recent recommendations of the Secretary-General with respect to the mandate of UNOCI, United Nations support for the process undertaken under the Ouagadougou Agreement, the appointment of a new special representative and head of UNOCI, and careful examination of the request for a partial lifting of the arms embargo regime in order to contribute to the peace process, taking into account the peaceful implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement."

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now give the floor to the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mrs. Booto (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (*spoke in French*): First and foremost, allow me to warmly congratulate you, Mr. President, on behalf of my delegation for the effective manner in which you are guiding the work of the Security Council during this month of July. I wish to thank you in particular for taking the initiative to organize this debate on the report of the Security Council's mission to Africa, which took place between 14 and 21 June 2007. That mission took the Council to Addis Ababa, Khartoum, Accra, Abidjan and Kinshasha in order to carry out an exchange of views with African leaders on how best to enhance relations between the Security Council and the African Union, as well as with other regional organizations regarding the maintenance of peace and security in Africa.

My delegation is of the view that these regular contacts will enable the Council to participate effectively in the discussion on mechanisms for establishing closer links between the United Nations and the African Union in the areas of conflict prevention, mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, as well as with regard to the means for supporting and improving the resource base and the peacebuilding capacity of the African Union. My delegation also hopes that the Council will maintain its commitment to work together with the African Union towards establishing a more coherent partnership through which the efforts to maintain peace and security will be carried out in the context of more formal relations between these two organizations and which will allow for sharing best practices and strategic analyses.

My delegation would like to thank Council members for their work during their mission to Africa, particularly the Permanent Representative of France for his valuable contribution to the mission, which visited my country, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, by providing supplementary support to the efforts of the international community to help my country restore a lasting peace and ensure national reconciliation.

Coming after the Secretary-General's visit to my country, the Security Council's mission was the eighth to take place following the launching of the transitional process, which, in spite of some incidents along the way, has now taken significant steps, particularly the organization of elections and the establishment of democratic institutions. Security Council members were able to use that opportunity to take stock of the efforts by the new Congolese authorities for the country's recovery. They also had the opportunity to get an overview of the security situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, especially with regard to security sector reform aiming at consolidating the results of police reform and at achieving integration of the army units, while also concluding the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.

My delegation shares the concerns expressed by the Council with regard to the ongoing violence in the Kivus, especially the violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law committed particularly by militia and other foreign armed groups. It is important to stress that the situation in that part of the country will not be resolved constructively except through cooperation with neighbouring countries. That is why my delegation wishes to recall that significant quantities of arms and munitions, coming for the most part from neighbouring countries, entered the Democratic Republic of the Congo without restriction, in violation of Security Council resolution 1698 (2006) of 31 July 2006, on the arms embargo. It is those weapons that the militia and other armed groups use to commit the serious violations of human rights in the country.

Given the magnitude of those acts of violence, in particular sexual violence, our national institutions are aware of the need to prevent and to severely sanction such violations, especially acts of sexual violence, and to ensure that care is provided for victims, whose

physical and moral integrity has been attacked. Thus the bill on sexual violence was adopted by Parliament and was promulgated by the President of the Republic in August 2006.

I wish to conclude by stressing once again that it is important for the Security Council to work to strengthen the African Union, especially for a more effective and efficient response in resolving conflicts on the African continent. For its part, the Democratic Republic of the Congo endorses the recommendations of the Security Council and will spare no effort to restore a lasting peace and to ensure reconciliation throughout the population and to tackle the necessary reconstruction work.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I now call on the representative of the African Union.

Ms. Ratsifandrihamanana (*spoke in French*): At the outset, we thank you, Sir, for having invited us to this meeting to review the report of the Security Council's mission to Africa, which we warmly welcome. We also commend all the Security Council members that led and participated in the mission.

The Chairman of the Commission of the African Union, Mr. Alpha Oumar Konaré, has instructed me to convey his heartfelt appreciation for the fruitful cooperation he enjoyed with the Security Council recently and during its visit to Addis Ababa. We also welcome the important recommendations set forth in the report and in the joint communiqué issued following the Security Council's meeting with the Peace and Security Council of the African Union.

The mission to Africa attests above all to the Security Council's readiness to meet its obligations. Recalling that 29 out of 49 missions of this kind have been conducted in Africa since 1960, we are convinced that they will help to reassure our peoples and Governments of the essential role of the Security Council and its commitment as guarantor of international peace and security.

The initiative also attests to the Security Council's concern to listen to Africa, be attentive to realities on the ground, and act as a united team, giving priority to dialogue. That will help to increase the esteem and trust of the entire international community for the Security Council.

The mission was also an undoubted milestone in the efforts to secure lasting peace and security in the countries involved. The concerted actions of the United Nations and the African Union in those countries have been characterized by innovative approaches, unprecedented creativity, flexibility in action and, above all, the mobilization of the international community. They will help to lay a new foundation for cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union.

As for cooperation, it was enhanced yet again by the presence of the United Nations, in the person of Deputy Secretary-General Asha-Rose Migiro, at the ninth African Union summit in Accra. The major decisions taken there reflect the convergence of visions and approaches of the two organizations with respect to maintaining international peace and security, particularly in Africa.

The decisions of the conference of heads of State and Government clearly reflect the recommendations of the mission and highlight the cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the African Union, which were strengthened yet again by the Council's informal meeting of 13 July with the Chairman of the Commission, followed by his meeting with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

I would recall, inter alia, that the Chairman of the Commission urged the Security Council promptly to adopt a resolution authorizing the deployment of the hybrid operation in Darfur and funding it through United Nations assessed contributions. He also recognized the leadership of the United Nations in the field of international peace and security. The African Union, however, must shoulder its own responsibilities in maintaining peace in Africa. The Chairman highlighted the need to preserve the growing trust of the Government of the Sudan, which does not mean pandering or issuing blank checks.

The Commission Chairman recognized the importance of unified command and control in the hybrid operation. The operation must, however, retain its African nature and, to that end, additional efforts are necessary to raise awareness among African troop-contributing countries. He called on both organizations to work together to consolidate political dialogue and to support the efforts of the special envoys of the United Nations and the African Union in Darfur. In that respect, it is critical to coordinate and harmonize all initiatives under United Nations and African Union auspices. The Chairman of the Commission

commended the convening in September of a joint session between the United Nations and the African Union.

With respect to Somalia, the Chairman of the Commission focused on the need to complete the deployment of the African Union Military Observer Mission in Somalia pending the rapid deployment of a United Nations operation to assume its functions.

All of this offers lessons for improving the effectiveness of conflict management in Africa. We fully endorse the recommendations contained in the Security Council's report and underscore the need to implement commitments already made in various international instruments, and specifically the 10-year programme for United Nations capacity-building of the African Union. We also stress the urgent need to support the African Union in establishing its peace and security architecture, including a continent-wide early warning system, a group of eminent persons and the yet-to-be-established African force, which must enhance the rapid regional response to conflict.

We also highlight the need to coordinate initiatives so as to avoid duplication. The partnership between the two organizations must be coherent, which requires the harmonization of decision-making procedures, joint strategic analysis and systematic information-sharing.

Lastly, we especially welcome the decision to hold a joint annual meeting of the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council. We also endorse the search for lasting solutions to the issue of funding peacekeeping operations in Africa assigned to the African Union acting on behalf of the international community.

In conclusion, we reiterate our congratulations to the Security Council's members on their successful mission of Africa. The momentum and the Council's appreciable commitment reassure and encourage us to consolidate the United Nations/African Union partnership in the quest for lasting peace in Africa. Finally, we believe that joint missions of the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council might be considered. The African Union mission in New York would be pleased to be associated with such missions.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): There are no further speakers inscribed on my list.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5718

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5718th meeting

Tuesday, 17 July 2007, 11.25 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	Congo	Mrs. Nzounka Lekaka
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mr. Mulyana
	Italy	Mr. Spatafora
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Peru	Mr. Gallardo
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Nasser
	Russian Federation	Mr. Kravchenko
	Slovakia	Mr. Mlynár
	South Africa	Mr. Kumalo
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United States of America	Mr. McBride

Agenda

The situation in Afghanistan

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-42724 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 11.25 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Afghanistan

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Afghanistan, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Tanin (Afghanistan) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

> "The Security Council welcomes recent international initiatives aimed at enhancing security, stability and development in Afghanistan, including: the annual Afghanistan Development Forum (ADF), followed by a meeting of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB), on 29-30 April; the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the G-8 with the Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan and Pakistan in Potsdam, on 30 May, which adopted a Joint Statement on the promotion of cooperation and assistance through mutual consultation and agreement, including follow-up projects in areas such as refugees repatriation and economic development on both sides of the border; the Conference on 'DIAG (Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups) for the Stabilization of Afghanistan: Coordination with the Police Reform' in Tokyo, co-chaired by Afghanistan, Japan and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), on 21 June; and the 'Rome Conference on the Rule of Law in Afghanistan', co-chaired by the Governments of Afghanistan and Italy and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, on 2-3 July, which agreed on measures to enhance Afghan and international commitment to justice sector reform, as outlined in the Chairs' Conclusions and the Joint Recommendations of the Conference, and called for a follow-up meeting in Kabul this October. The Security Council encourages all relevant parties to ensure full and timely implementation of the outcomes of these events.
>
> "The Council reaffirms its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan. The Security Council also reaffirms the central and impartial role that the United Nations continues to play in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan by leading the efforts of the international community. The Council welcomes, in this regard, the participation and contribution of the United Nations Secretary-General to various initiatives on Afghanistan, as well as his visit to the country on 29 June.
>
> "The Security Council notes that these developments reinforce the progress made in pursuing a comprehensive approach to the security, governance and development of Afghanistan, on the basis of the Afghanistan Compact and the Afghan National Development Strategy. The Security Council emphasizes that the strengthening of Afghan institutions, the advancement of regional cooperation, sustained economic and social development, and the fight against international terrorism, as well as against opium cultivation, production and trafficking, remain key factors to achieve sustainable peace, stability and development in Afghanistan.
>
> "The Security Council reiterates its support for the continuing endeavours by the Afghan Government, with the assistance of the international community, including the International Security Assistance Force and the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition, to further improve the security situation and to continue to address the threat posed by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist groups. The Security Council

condemns in the strongest terms all suicide attacks against civilians and Afghan and international forces and their destabilizing effects on the security and stability of Afghanistan, as well as the use by the Taliban and other extremist groups of civilians as human shields. The Council deeply regrets all losses sustained by the local population, the national security forces and international military and civilian personnel. The Security Council expresses its concern about all civilian casualties and reiterates its call for all feasible steps to be taken to ensure the protection of civilian life and for international humanitarian and human rights law to be upheld. The Council stresses the importance of continued cooperation between international security forces and the Afghan authorities, inter alia to promote awareness of local culture and traditions, which is useful in the implementation of their tasks. The Council stresses the role of UNAMA to continue to contribute to human rights protection, including monitoring of the situation of civilians in armed conflict.

"The Security Council expresses its concern at the serious harm that increasing opium cultivation, production and trafficking causes to the security, development and governance of Afghanistan as well as to the region and internationally, and calls on the Afghan Government, with the assistance of the international community, to pursue effective implementation of the National Drug Control Strategy. The Security Council welcomes the efforts undertaken by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to promote border management cooperation in drug control between Afghanistan and its neighbours. The Security Council also notes with concern evidence of growing links between the insurgency and the drug trade in the south of Afghanistan.

"The Security Council welcomes the efforts of the International Security Assistance Force and other partners to train and mentor the Afghan national security forces. The Security Council welcomes the establishment of the Afghan-led International Police Coordination Board to enhance coordination and increase effectiveness in this area, which is central to the process of empowerment of the Afghan Government. The Security Council also welcomes the deployment, beginning on 15 June, of the European Union Police mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL Afghanistan).

"The Council stresses the importance for the stability of the country and the region of finding viable solutions for Afghan refugees, in particular for their voluntary, safe and orderly return and sustainable reintegration in Afghanistan, and calls for continued and enhanced international cooperation and assistance in this regard.

"The Security Council encourages relevant national and international actors to develop increased operational synergies, taking due account of their respective roles and responsibilities. The Security Council emphasizes in this regard the central role played by the JCMB in coordinating international assistance, while preserving Afghan ownership, and encourages further efforts to promote a more coherent international engagement.

"The Security Council appreciates the continued efforts by the Secretary-General and his Special Representative to ensure the full implementation of the mandate of UNAMA, as established by its resolution 1662 (2006) and extended by resolution 1746 (2007), and looks forward to the further expansion of the Mission and its operations to key provinces across the country at the earliest opportunity."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2007/27.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 11.35 p.m.

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5719th meeting

Thursday, 19 July 2007, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mr. Kleib
	Italy	Mr. Azzarello
	Panama	Mr. Arias
	Peru	Mr. Voto-Bernales
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Nasser
	Russian Federation	Mr. Rogachev
	Slovakia	Mr. Mlynár
	South Africa	Mr. Kumalo
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Ms. Pierce
	United States of America	Mr. Khalilzad

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

Letter dated 12 July 2007 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2007/424)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-43152 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

Letter dated 12 July 2007 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2007/424)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Lebanon, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Salam (Lebanon) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Serge Brammertz, Commissioner of the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Brammertz to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2007/424, which contains the text of a letter dated 12 July 2007 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council, transmitting the eighth report of the International Independent Investigation Commission.

I now give the floor to Mr. Serge Brammertz, Commissioner of the United Nations International Independent Investigation Commission.

Mr. Brammertz: I would like to thank the members of the Security Council for this opportunity to provide the Council with an update on the progress made by the International Independent Investigation Commission.

The Commission's latest report covers activities over the past four months. The work of the Commission during this reporting period was marked by a wide-ranging effort to bring together the considerable amount of information collected since the creation of the Commission in 2005. That process allowed the Commission to critically analyse the large volume of information collected and to assess progress made to date. As a result, a series of detailed reports totalling more than 2,400 pages were produced, covering all aspects of the Hariri investigation and the other investigations being conducted or supported by the Commission.

The Commission continues to focus primarily on the investigation into the assassination of Rafik Hariri and 22 others on 14 February 2005. The Commission's review of its sizeable holdings and analysis in this case is covered in a 2,000-page confidential consolidated report that deals with all aspects of the investigation. For example, in relation to the forensic aspects of the investigation, the Commission has consolidated more than 10,000 pages of information and forensic reports produced since 2005 and has reviewed dozens of experiments and examinations undertaken by the Commission and by external experts on the Hariri case.

Regarding the improvised explosive device (IED) used in the attack, the consolidated results confirm the Commission's conclusions about the type and quantity of the explosives, the initiating system and the container used to carry the IED, as well as the exact circumstances of the blast. Investigations are ongoing to trace the precise origin of the explosives and to establish possible forensic links with other cases.

In the most recent of the earlier reporting periods, during which 32 interviews were conducted on the Hariri case, special emphasis was placed on the investigation related to the Mitsubishi Canter van used to carry the IED. As previously noted, the van was stolen in Japan before being shipped to the United Arab Emirates and was then transported to northern Lebanon

in December 2004. The Commission is currently working on new information regarding the sale of the van to individuals who could have been involved in its final preparation for the attack on Rafik Hariri.

The Commission has also brought together and advanced its investigations regarding the suicide bomber. Forensic analyses using samples collected in a number of locations have allowed the Commission to narrow down the countries from which the suicide bomber could have originated. Those experiments are currently ongoing.

To support the investigations in all areas of the Hariri and other cases, the Commission has developed DNA and fingerprint databases that are being used to identify possible matches using other similar databases. The Commission has also created a sketch database and has initiated an inventory of all the physical and biological exhibits it has accumulated.

The Commission continues to further its understanding of the motives to assassinate Rafik Hariri. Some aspects related to the motives have been resolved to the satisfaction of the Commission. These include, among others, the role of the Bank Al-Madina affair.

As noted in my last briefing, the Commission is concentrating on Rafik Hariri's political activities and on the political events and dynamics in the period leading up to the attack, as these most probably shaped the motive for the assassination. They include the adoption of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004), the events surrounding the extension of President Emile Lahoud's term and the perceived outcomes of the 2005 parliamentary elections.

Following a detailed review of its information and findings, the Commission has identified a number of persons who present a particular interest to the investigation into the assassination of Rafik Hariri. The Commission's findings suggest that these individuals may have been involved in some aspects of the planning or execution of the attack, or that they could have known that such a plan was under way. This line of the investigation will be a priority for the Commission in the next few months.

The Commission conducted a similar consolidation of its findings in each of the 17 other cases where it was mandated to provide technical assistance to the Lebanese authorities. Over 400 pages of consolidated reports were produced on those cases, and the findings from 25 forensic examinations undertaken by the Commission and by external experts have been reviewed. In the attacks targeted at Marwan Hamedeh, Samir Kassir, George Hawi, Elias El-Murr, May Chidiac, Gebran Tueni and Pierre Gemayel, the Commission has focused on analyzing threats and claims of responsibility, determining possible motives, examining and comparing the modus operandi, drawing up a profile of each victim and attempting to determine possible commonalities. The Commission also continues to look into possible links between these cases and the Hariri case.

On 13 June 2007, Member of Parliament Walid Eido, his son and six other people were killed by an IED in central Beirut. Following a request from the Lebanese Prime Minister to the United Nations, the Commission was tasked to provide technical assistance to the Lebanese investigations into this attack. A team of forensic experts working for the Commission completed a two-week examination of the crime scene, and the Commission is currently awaiting results from those examinations to proceed with comparative analyses.

In total, 27 interviews were conducted by the Commission on those targeted attacks during the reporting period. In addition, 25 interviews were conducted on the nine attacks where no individuals were targeted, including the Ain Alaq bombings of February 2007.

The Commission has continued to maintain a close and collegial relationship with the Lebanese judicial authorities, who have been regularly informed about the progress made in all investigations. Since my last briefing to the Council, the Commission has made 88 requests for assistance to the Prosecutor General of Lebanon, and responses have been provided fully and expeditiously.

Cooperation with Syria remains generally satisfactory. Syria provided timely responses to the Commission's 11 requests for assistance during this reporting period. In addition, the Commission is grateful for the logistical and security arrangements made by the Syrian authorities for the Commission's various activities in Syria, in particular during four missions to Syria in this reporting period. In addition, 18 requests for assistance were sent to 12 other States, and responses have been mostly positive.

I would like to take this opportunity to note once again that the Commission relies on the support of all States to provide information, assistance and expertise when required. The Commission is grateful for the support it has received from a number of States during this reporting period. That support remains essential for the successful completion of the Commission's mandate.

As the Council is aware, the security situation in Lebanon has deteriorated since my last briefing to the Council. The Commission is very mindful of the prevailing security conditions and of specific threats it faces due to the nature of its work. In this reporting period, the Commission has conducted regular assessments on all aspects of its security in close cooperation with the Lebanese security forces, and a number of additional mitigating measures have been put in place. In this regard, the Commission notes that the security of witnesses and persons who cooperate with the Commission needs to be guaranteed. This remains a priority for the Commission and will also have to be addressed by the Special Tribunal for Lebanon in a timely manner.

The comprehensive consolidation effort carried out by the Commission during this reporting period has yielded several important results by highlighting areas of the investigation that have been resolved to the satisfaction of the Commission, as well as a number of open questions that will have to be addressed as priorities in the months to come.

As noted earlier, the consolidation of the Commission's findings across several areas of the Hariri case, and in some of the other cases, has helped identify a number of persons who may have been involved in some aspect of the crime. A number of commonalities across cases have also been brought to light as a result of the consolidation exercise. Based on these and other results, the Commission has produced detailed work plans in each area under investigation; those workplans will help to make the best possible use of the Commission's limited resources in the next few months.

Set against the backdrop of Security Council resolution 1757 (2007), the confidential consolidated reports will provide a useful starting point in the transition from the Commission to the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. This process will be facilitated by a state-of-the-art information management system established by the Commission, based on the best practices used in international tribunals.

In closing, I would like to reaffirm to the Council that the Commission stands ready to cooperate with the Secretary-General and with the Special Tribunal for Lebanon to ensure a smooth handover to the Tribunal at the time when the Tribunal will begin functioning.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank Mr. Brammertz for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of Lebanon.

Mr. Salam (Lebanon) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me at the outset, on behalf of the delegation of Lebanon, to congratulate you, Mr. President, and your country, China, for assuming the presidency of the Security Council for this month. I would also like to commend the Belgian delegation, which presided over the Council during the past month. I commend Mr. Serge Brammertz for continuing in a highly professional manner the investigations that have been entrusted to him.

The Council has followed the just efforts of Lebanon to face the terrorist acts that have been directed against our State for over two years. It has actively followed the events surrounding the assassination of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and established the International Independent Investigation Commission (IIIC) to find those who planned and carried out this major crime against Lebanon. Since then, the Council has not hesitated in responding positively to the requests of the Lebanese Government for technical assistance with regard to terrorist crimes that followed, the most recent of which was the assassination of Member of Parliament Walid Eido.

The persistence of the international community and the Council in these matters was crowned by the adoption of resolution 1757 (2007), which laid down the legal context for the establishment of the special international tribunal for Lebanon, in accordance with an arrangement that resulted from considerable study between the United Nations and the Lebanese Government. Since the establishment of this tribunal will put an end to impunity, it will no doubt contribute to deterring all those who would like to continue their terrorist activities and will enhance the stability of our country and the sense of security of our people.

The Council is meeting today to consider to the eighth report submitted by Commissioner Serge Brammertz, which represents an advanced stage in the march for justice and truth that we have started together. We have listened attentively to the briefing by Commissioner Brammertz on the results achieved by IIIC over the past four months, and on behalf of my Government I would like to emphasize the following points.

First, we commend the high professionalism that characterized the work of the IIIC Commissioner and all his staff and their efforts in continuing to seek information on a solid and clear basis.

Secondly, we welcome the clear progress that the investigation has made, which will now allow Commissioner Brammertz to analyse the information provided and present the Commission's conclusions, as the Commissioner mentioned in more than one paragraph of his report.

Thirdly, we must mention that the Commission has started taking measures to provide the best possible conditions for the transition of its work to the Office of the Prosecutor of the international tribunal.

Fourthly, we wish to thank the Commission for the technical assistance that it is providing to the Lebanese authorities to investigate the terrorist crimes that followed the assassination of Prime Minister Hariri and his companions, which has enabled us to establish causal and methodological relations between many of these crimes.

Fifthly, my Government asserts its keenness to ensure the security of IIIC and the safety of its personnel. It has thus intensified the measures to provide security to the Commission. Political assassinations and terrorist explosions that seek to destabilize Lebanon and its sovereignty will not be allowed to undermine one of the pillars of Lebanese and international justice and should not be allowed to affect in any way the work of international legitimacy in Lebanon — that is, the task of the international force and its role in southern Lebanon.

The eighth report of IIIC arrives on the first anniversary of the destructive Israeli aggression against Lebanon. The Council played a major role in putting an end to that aggression and urged the international community to provide assistance to Lebanon in different fields. The Council's commitment to the stability of Lebanon, its safety and the security of its people is reiterated every time the Council condemns terrorist acts that seek to destabilize Lebanon and its unique national experiment, which is based on diversity, openness, democracy and respect for private and public freedoms.

The Council's meeting today is indeed an expression of the solid interrelationship between justice and stability and the Council's keenness for international peace and security.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I thank the representative of Lebanon for his statement.

There are no other speakers on my list. In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I would now like to invite Council members to informal consultations on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5720

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5720th meeting

Monday, 23 July 2007, 11.35 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Mr. Ayi-Bonte
	Indonesia	Mr. Kleib
	Italy	Mr. Azzarello
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Peru	Ms. Tincopa
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Nasser
	Russian Federation	Mr. Demin
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	South Africa	Ms. Rulumeni
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Bayley
	United States of America	Mr. McBride

Agenda

The situation in Somalia

Letter dated 17 July 2007 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2007/436)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-43371 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 11.35 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Somalia

Letter dated 17 July 2007 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2007/436)

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of Somalia, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Duale (Somalia) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of members to document S/2007/436, which contains the text of a letter dated 17 July 2007 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 751 (1992) concerning Somalia addressed to the President of the Security Council, transmitting the report of the Monitoring Group on Somalia. Members also have before them document S/2007/381, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2007/446, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

It is my understanding that the Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. Unless I hear any objection, I shall now put the draft resolution to the vote.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Belgium, China, Congo, France, Ghana, Indonesia, Italy, Panama, Peru, Qatar, Russian Federation, Slovakia, South Africa, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): There were 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 1766 (2007).

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council will remain seized of the matter.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5721

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5721st meeting

Monday, 23 July 2007, 11.40 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Mr. Ayi-Bonte
	Indonesia	Mr. Kleib
	Italy	Mr. Azzarello
	Panama	Mr. Suescum
	Peru	Mr. Gallardo
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Nasser
	Russian Federation	Mr. Kravchenko
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	South Africa	Ms. Rulumeni
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Bayley
	United States of America	Mr. McBride

Agenda

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-43447 (E)

0743447

The meeting was called to order at 11.40 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ileka (Democratic Republic of the Congo) took a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council expresses its deep concern at the deteriorating security situation in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in particular in North and South Kivu. The Council is particularly concerned about the serious humanitarian consequences of violent actions of foreign armed groups, in particular the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR), and military activities of the 'mixed' brigades.

"The Security Council urges all actors involved to refrain from any action leading to a military confrontation, that could result in further tension and aggravate the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the Kivus, and to seek a solution to the current crisis through political and diplomatic means.

"The Security Council calls on the mixed brigades and their commanders to integrate into the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC) and to stop recruiting activities. The Council condemns the recruitment of children in violation of applicable international law and urges the above-mentioned elements to release all children associated with them.

"The Security Council reiterates its grave concern at the continued threat that the foreign and Congolese armed groups in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo pose to the local population and security in the region. It reiterates its demand that those groups lay down their arms and engage voluntarily and without preconditions in their demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration, as appropriate.

"The Security Council invites the Government to develop in close coordination with the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) a global plan to ensure security in the eastern part of the country, particularly by making further progress in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of Congolese combatants and the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration of foreign combatants, and by ending impunity, promoting reconciliation, social cohesion, recovery and development in the region. It notes with concern the significant number of internally displaced persons and emphasizes the need to reassure the population and promote effective State administration in the region. The Council welcomes the intention of the Congolese authorities to facilitate an inclusive dialogue in the Kivus and looks forward to its implementation.

"The Security Council encourages MONUC to continue, in conformity with its mandate, to support the FARDC integrated brigades with a view to disarming recalcitrant foreign and Congolese armed groups in order to ensure their participation in the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration

process, as appropriate. It encourages the Congolese authorities to develop, in close consultation with MONUC, the necessary planning to that end and stresses that any operation which may require MONUC's support should be jointly planned with it and in accordance with international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. The Council requests the Secretary-General to keep it informed of this planning process. It also underlines the importance of continued efforts by MONUC, in implementing its mandate, to provide protection to civilians and contribute to the improvement of the security conditions in which humanitarian assistance is provided.

"The Security Council strongly encourages the Government to carry out the reform of the security sector nationwide as a matter of priority, by pursuing its efforts to consolidate the reform of the police and to integrate the armed forces. In this context, the Council acknowledges the concerted efforts of the Government and its partners towards convening a national roundtable on security sector reform, scheduled for October in Kinshasa.

"The Security Council expresses its deep concern about the recruitment of combatants, including children, in violation of applicable international law, inside and outside the Democratic Republic of the Congo, especially by forces loyal to Laurent Nkunda.

"The Council urges the neighbouring States concerned to further facilitate the effective reintegration of returning former combatants and to prevent all recruiting activities within their territories. The Council recognizes that good regional relations, in particular relations between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, are an important factor in solving the crisis in the Kivus. It encourages both Governments to continue to cooperate to solve their common security concerns, to improve their diplomatic relations, and to support the voluntary return of refugees, in consultation with the High Commissioner for Refugees.

"The Security Council encourages MONUC, in conformity with its mandate, to assist the Government, including through the provision of good offices, in its efforts to find a lasting solution to the crisis in the Kivus through promoting reconciliation and political dialogue."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2007/28.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.5722

Security Council

Distr.: General
24 July 2007

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 5722nd (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 24 July 2007, at 10 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"On 24 July 2007, the Security Council, pursuant to resolution 1353 (2001), annex II, sections A and B, held its 5722nd meeting in private with the troop-contributing countries to the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

"The Security Council and the troop-contributing countries heard a briefing under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure by Mr. Hédi Annabi, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations."

07-43618 (E) 240707

United Nations S/PV.5723

Security Council

Sixty-second year

Provisional

5723rd meeting

Wednesday, 25 July 2007, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Wang Guangya	(China)
Members:	Belgium	Mr. Verbeke
	Congo	Mr. Gayama
	France	Mr. De La Sablière
	Ghana	Mr. Christian
	Indonesia	Mr. Kleib
	Italy	Mr. Spatafora
	Panama	Mr. Arias
	Peru	Mr. Voto-Bernales
	Qatar	Mr. Al-Nasser
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Slovakia	Mr. Burian
	South Africa	Mr. Sangqu
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Johnston
	United States of America	Ms. Wolcott Sanders

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A.

07-43774 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

The President (*spoke in Chinese*): In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Michael C. Williams, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Williams to take a seat at the Council table.

As this is the last time that Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sablière will participate in the deliberations of the Security Council in his capacity as the Permanent Representative of France, I wish to take this opportunity to express to him, on behalf of the members of the Council, our appreciation of him as both a colleague and a friend. Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sablière has devoted a total of 13 years, in three different assignments, to representing France at United Nations Headquarters. He will likely best be remembered as having ably led yearly missions of the Security Council to Central Africa, most recently that to the Democratic Republic of the Congo as part of the Council's mission to Africa last month. Ambassador De La Sablière has also made an important contribution through his active chairmanship of the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict.

In bidding Ambassador De La Sablière a fond farewell, the others members of the Council and I would like to say that we wish him every success in his new endeavours. Bon voyage.

Mr. De La Sablière (France) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for your kind and friendly words addressed to me on the occasion of my last appearance in the Chamber. I am very touched. With your permission, I should like to say a few words to the Council.

First of all, it has been an honour for me to represent France at the Security Council for almost five years in order to defend its positions and put forth its initiatives for world peace and security. It has been a rewarding task.

I think that we who meet in this body know well that we live in an unstable world in which old and new threats to peace and security can build up in a dangerous way. Crises, internal and regional conflicts, the protection of civilians and children, terrorism and the risks posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction call for active international cooperation, a strong United Nations and a Security Council able to live up to the responsibilities entrusted to it by the Charter.

The Council's work is difficult and — perhaps not always, but often — is successful in both the short and long term. I would also add that the Council, acting on behalf of the international community, is never as strong as when it is united. That is why France endeavours to promote consensus on, or broad support for, a good text as much possible.

A spirit of cooperation in the Security Council, which I have always enjoyed, is crucial, and I would like to thank colleagues and their missions for it. I thank them for the quality of our personal relations and friendships.

In conclusion, I would also like to thank the Council's secretariat, which supports us in our work, including translators, and the interpreters — who I hope have not suffered too much throughout the years due to the cadence of my speech.

The President: I would like to thank Ambassador De La Sablière for his touching words on the work of the Council and the good working relations among colleagues.

(*spoke in Chinese*)

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Michael C. Williams, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, to whom I give the floor.

Mr. Williams: May I join you, Mr. President, in expressing best wishes for the future to Ambassador Jean-Marc de La Sablière. I would also like to thank him for his unstinting personal support for the work of the United Nations in the Middle East.

Since my last briefing to the Council, there have been a number of important political developments giving cause for hope. Most notable is the re-engagement of the international community and Israel with the Government of Prime Minister Salam Fayyad. On 25 June, President Mubarak of Egypt hosted a summit at Sharm el-Sheikh that included Prime Minister Olmert, King Abdullah II of Jordan and President Abbas. On 16 July President Bush made an important speech announcing a series of measures of support to the Palestinian Government, leading to an international meeting in the autumn to be chaired by Secretary of State Rice. Most encouraging is that, on 16 July, President Abbas and Prime Minister Olmert had a very positive bilateral meeting that touched on final status issues. That was their first meeting in three months. Last week, on 19 July, the Quartet met in Lisbon, together with its new special envoy, Mr. Tony Blair. Today, the Foreign Ministers of Jordan and Egypt have arrived in Israel to discuss the Arab Peace Initiative.

That is impressive diplomatic momentum, but the positive developments are offset by a problematic and increasingly complex reality on the ground, where violence continues. The situation in the Gaza Strip has stabilized somewhat since my last report. Hamas is in control of Gaza and has detained political opponents and those whom it accuses of collaboration with Israel. At least two men have been killed while in Hamas captivity, and local Palestinian human rights groups have made allegations of torture.

BBC journalist Alan Johnston, who had been kidnapped by the Army of Islam, was released on 4 July. The Secretary-General expressed his profound relief at the release of Mr. Johnston, who had been held for nearly four months. Hamas subsequently detained 12 members of the Army of Islam and affiliated Islamic groups said to be behind the kidnapping of Johnston and recent attacks on such targets as the American School and a Christian bookshop.

In this reporting period there were more than 20 incidents of Palestinian attacks, involving 192 rocket and mortar shells, against the Gaza crossings and into Israel. The military wing of Hamas has been responsible for most of the rockets and mortars fired at the crossings, and it claimed responsibility for 10 attacks aimed towards Kerem Shalom and 5 aimed towards Erez. However, Islamic Jihad and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade also carried out attacks against the crossings. Islamic Jihad was also responsible for most of the rockets and mortars launched against Israel, with Hamas claiming responsibility for only one such attack during the reporting period. The Secretary-General has repeatedly condemned Palestinian rocket fire, which targets civilians — causing injuries and damage — and impedes the flow of assistance to the people of Gaza.

According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Israeli military actions continued throughout the reporting period, leading to 52 Palestinian fatalities, including four children, and 109 injured, three of whom were children. Thirty-three of those fatalities were in Gaza. One Israeli was killed and 18 injured, including one child. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) continued targeted killings in Gaza. In the West Bank, the IDF carried out almost daily arrest raids into towns and villages, killing some 20 Palestinians and arresting at least 244 suspected activists from various Palestinian factions. I encourage Israel to cease those operations and to hand over security control of the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority.

The Hamas takeover of Gaza and the absence of Palestinian Authority (PA) security forces have left the crossings connecting Gaza with the outside world mostly inoperable. The Secretary-General has stated his concern about that situation and its impact on economic life, most notably in a statement on 13 July. He believes that it is essential for the Palestinian Authority to do everything possible to ensure the well-being of the Palestinians of Gaza. The United Nations encourages the PA to work with Egypt, Israel and the international community to explore all possible options to operate the crossings.

United Nations agencies have redoubled their efforts with Israel and the Palestinian Authority over the past month to facilitate and ensure the continuous flow of basic humanitarian goods through the Kerem Shalom crossing. Overall, 65,000 metric tons of basic food and medical supplies have entered the Strip commercially or through the United Nations, meeting 88 per cent of the population's basic minimum food needs.

However, it is clear that humanitarian assistance alone will not be sufficient to stop the decline in the economy that is currently unfolding owing to the interruption of regular commercial flows to and from the Gaza Strip. The closure of the Karni crossing since early June has meant that agricultural and industrial products destined for markets in Israel, the West Bank or farther afield have not been exported. It has also meant that materials essential for the production of industrial goods and for the construction sector are not entering Gaza. For the United Nations alone, that has resulted in projects worth $213 million coming to a halt. The World Bank now estimates that more than 75 per cent of Gaza's factories have had to close operations and that more than 68,000 workers have been temporarily laid off. Unless the crossings are open for imports and exports, the downward economic spiral will lead to extensive hardship for an already impoverished Gaza Strip.

It is particularly worrying that very little progress has been made to resolve the question of approximately 6,000 Palestinians who are unable to move from Egypt back into the Gaza Strip. I would urge all parties to act quickly to hasten the return of that displaced population.

I turn now to developments on the political front. On 13 July, Prime Minister Fayyad's emergency Government was reappointed as a caretaker Government that will continue to function until there is a vote in the Palestinian legislature terminating its tenure or until elections are held. The Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) has tried to convene on a number of occasions, but, owing to alternate boycotts by both Hamas and Fatah, no sessions have been held. The continued Israeli detention of 45 Palestinian legislators is an aggravating factor, and we join the European Union in calling for their release. As a result of those obstacles, the PLC failed to meet the Basic Law deadline for a vote of confidence on the emergency Government, as had been requested by Prime Minister Fayyad.

On 16 July, President Abbas called for early presidential and PLC elections. However, there has been no indication as to when such elections might be held, and it is not clear how or when the current impasse will be resolved. I must note that my own meetings in the region suggest that there are no immediate prospects for reconciliation between Hamas and President Abbas's Fatah movement.

The creation of the independent emergency Government of Prime Minister Fayyad on 15 June, which was warmly welcomed by Quartet members, has led to the renewal of direct financial assistance from the donor community. Prime Minister Olmert has made commitments to support the new Government of Prime Minister Fayyad through transferring tax revenues, significantly freeing movement in the West Bank, renewing economic and security cooperation and releasing some Palestinian prisoners. In that regard, Israel transferred $117 million in Palestinian tax revenues on 1 July and released 255 Palestinian prisoners on 20 July. I am pleased to note the positive and businesslike way in which Israel and the Palestinian Authority are working together.

In a step that will help Prime Minister Fayyad on the ground, the PA and Israel also reached an agreement that led to 178 wanted militants giving up their arms and signing peace pledges in return for being removed from Israel's most-wanted list.

I would like to commend Prime Minister Fayyad's successful effort to pay full salaries to 160,000 PA employees in the West Bank and, in particular, in the Gaza Strip as well. This is the first time in 15 months that a full salary payment has been made to civil servants. It has injected more than $100 million into the Palestinian economy, and its effects on the daily welfare of Palestinian households were immediately felt. I should note that salaries were not paid to the 20,000 members of the Hamas-affiliated security forces or the 11,000 civil servants hired by Hamas in the past year.

As part of this positive atmosphere of trust, and in a step welcomed by the Quartet, President Abbas and Prime Minister Olmert met on 16 July and renewed their bilateral dialogue at a very positive meeting. I am informed that all issues were put on the table, from prisoners to serious discussion on final-status issues.

In a significant speech on 16 July, President Bush supported Palestinian institution-building ahead of serious negotiations towards the creation of a Palestinian State and announced the intention of the United States to call an international meeting this autumn chaired by Secretary Rice, with the participation of Israel, the Palestinians and regional States. The Secretary-General welcomed that proposal. As for the Quartet, it indicated in Lisbon last week that it was looking forward to consultations as the meeting

is prepared and agreed that such a meeting should provide diplomatic support for the parties in their bilateral discussions and negotiations in order to move forward on a successful path to a Palestinian State.

The process of institution-building will be led by the former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who was appointed as Quartet Representative on 27 June. On 19 July, the Quartet welcomed his agreement to be the Quartet Representative and discussed with him the urgent work that lies ahead. The Quartet urged the parties and all States in the region to work closely with Mr. Blair and encouraged robust international support for his efforts.

Mr. Blair is returning from the region today after consultations with Palestinian and Israeli leaders and stakeholders. His initial visit was to form an assessment of the current situation before returning to the region in September to start implementing his strategic plan ahead of the international meeting in the autumn. The Secretary-General and our Quartet partners are all committed to giving Mr. Blair all the support necessary to ensure the success of his mission.

In that context, we welcome Norway's proposal to reactivate the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, with the stated support of President Bush and others in the international community, to discuss assistance management, financial support to the PA and Palestinian institutional reform. The meeting will take place in New York in September on the margins of the General Assembly.

Let me turn now to Lebanon. Lebanon continues to face a precarious political and security situation. The Council has already been briefed on the two terrorist attacks in less than a month that targeted the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), as well as on the status of the investigation.

In Beirut, the political impasse remains, with no tangible shift in the position of the parties. On 14 and 15 July, France hosted a meeting of Lebanese political figures representing participants in the Lebanese National Dialogue. That important initiative created a forum in which basic political principles and commitments were reaffirmed and participants pledged to avoid violence in resolving their political differences.

We support the commendable and continuing diplomatic efforts of France and those of the Arab League to assist the Lebanese in achieving consensus. The Secretary-General's Special Coordinator for Lebanon has remained in close contact with the parties and has continued to advocate for a return to dialogue and for compromises in order to narrow the gaps between the parties. The Secretary-General calls on Member States in the region to support the Lebanese parties in their efforts to reach a consensus.

The Lebanese Army continues its intense battle against the militant organization Fatah al-Islam in the Palestinian refugee camp of Nahr el-Bared in northern Lebanon. The fighting, which erupted on 20 May, has now claimed the lives of 114 Lebanese soldiers, at least 47 fighters from Fatah al-Islam and an unidentified number of civilians. On 6 July, two Palestinian demonstrators died in a confrontation with the army. The army and certain Palestinian factions have taken steps to prevent the recurrence of such incidents and to minimize the risk of violence spreading to other Palestinian camps in Lebanon.

A major assault was launched on 13 July by the army against an estimated 100 fighters still remaining in Nahr el-Bared. In connection with this attack, Fatah al-Islam fired Katyusha rockets from the embattled camp on surrounding towns and villages, leading to the death on 17 July of one civilian.

Israeli air violations of the Blue Line have continued to occur and, during this period, have significantly increased. UNIFIL has recorded a total of 271 Israeli overflights during the past month. These overflights are a violation of Lebanese sovereignty. The Secretary-General calls upon the Israeli authorities to make full use of the appropriate tripartite mechanism that exists with UNIFIL in which to address issues of concern.

In conclusion, following the collapse of the National Unity Government, the Palestinian Authority under President Abbas remains the only legitimate authority, and I have been pleased to see the quick response of the international community to deliver financial assistance and political support to Prime Minister Fayyad's caretaker Government.

However, it is important that the people of Gaza not be punished for the Hamas takeover. Re-opening the crossings to prevent the complete collapse of the Gazan economy remains a priority. The humanitarian and emergency response has been an effective short-term measure, but a solution led by President Abbas is

an urgent necessity. In the longer term, Gaza and the West Bank cannot remain separated. There is only one future Palestinian State, and it encompasses both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

There has been a promising start to the new relationship of Prime Minister Olmert, President Abbas and Prime Minister Fayyad. We must encourage the parties to continue to build confidence through the fulfilment of their Road Map commitments. Israel must remove checkpoints in the West Bank as well as dismantle outposts and freeze settlement expansion. President Abbas should continue to work to end violence, disarm Palestinian militias and reform Palestinian institutions. Fulfilment of those conditions would constitute solid foundations for the international meeting this autumn, which will hopefully be an important step to begin bilateral negotiations for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace.

The President: I thank Mr. Williams for his briefing.

(*spoke in Chinese*)

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion of this subject.

The meeting rose at 10.35 a.m.